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Ombudsman: Government services no better

EVELYN GORDON

GOVERNMENT offices and local authorities do not appear to be getting any more user-friendly, according to the latest report of Public Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat, who presented the report to the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

According to Ben-Porat's office, the one exception to the generally grim picture is Bezek, about which complaints have been steadily decreasing over the years.

The number of complaints filed in 1994 dropped by a slight 4 percent, to 6,983, the report said. However, of the 4,082 on which decisions were made, 35% were found to be justified—almost identical to the previous year's 36%.

By far the greatest number of complaints—1,347—related to the local authorities. Next was the Police Ministry, with 437, followed by the Treasury, with 428, the National Insurance Institute, 425, the Justice Ministry, 345, and the Housing Ministry, 296.

Ben-Porat stressed that, in her role as ombudsman, she is concerned not just with the letter of the law, but also with the authorities' attitude toward people.

"The public authorities must pay careful attention not just to the law and principles of clean government, but also to the dignity of those who need their services. [People] must be treated with appropriate respect and sensitivity," she wrote in her introduction to the report.

Ben-Porat also used the introduction to respond to a charge by Michael Karpin, editor of Israel TV's *Second Look* program, that she neglects her role as ombudsman in favor of her work as state comptroller.

"The combination of the roles of state comptroller and public ombudsman constitutes a heavy burden on the shoulders of one office," she wrote. "All over the world, these two tasks are separated. [But] there are advantages, as well as difficulties—such as the mutual feeding of information. In the year covered by the present report, this connection proved itself."

A prime example of the benefits of having both offices under one roof, she said, was the numerous complaints she received about the use of agricultural land for industrial purposes. Ultimately, this issue became a chapter in the recent state comptroller's report.

Complaints about the poor upkeep of Moslem cemeteries also provided a topic for the latest comptroller's report, she noted.

In only one case last year did the authorities refuse to accept her ruling, Ben-Porat said: The city of Givatayim overcharged someone on his municipal rates (*armona*), but refused to refund the money because he had not gone through the proper appeal procedures. Ben-Porat ruled that the city was still at fault, because it never informed the man of the proper procedures, but the city would not refund the money.

Another issue raised by every MK at the meeting was that public awareness of the possibility of turning to the ombudsman appears to be very low. Ben-Porat agreed that this is a problem.

"We genuinely hope that there will be more [complaints]—not, God forbid, that the authorities should make more bad decisions, but that people should be more aware," she said. "[People] shouldn't hesitate—they should turn to the ombudsman."

Ben-Porat also told the committee that in 1997, the organization of national ombudsmen in Europe has decided to hold its annual conference in Jerusalem—even though Israel has only observer status in the organization.

The ombudsman's report contains a representative sample of 25 complaints on a wide range of subjects.

Detailed reports, Page 3



President Saparmurat Niyazov of Turkmenistan (left) reviews an honor guard along with President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi yesterday. Niyazov and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin later signed a trade pact and cooperation agreements in the fields of tourism and education. (Isaac Harari)

Russians standing firm on sale of reactor to Iran

DAVID MAKOVSKY

RUSSIA insists on its right to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran, since it is convinced it will be used for peaceful purposes, visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Possolvalyuk told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday, Jerusalem sources say.

There is a high-level US-Russian commission that is supposed to discuss the sale, but Possolvalyuk's comments reinforced the feeling that Moscow is not going to cancel a sale that will net it approximately \$1 billion.

Rabin backs President Bill Clinton's view that Moscow must do more than cancel the sale of gas centrifuges—which can produce weapons-grade material—as part of the reactor sale.

Sources say he had a lengthy talk with Possolvalyuk—as he tells virtually every foreign visitor—about the danger of Islamic militancy emanating from Iran,

which he calls "Khomeinism without Khomeini."

Rabin said that given Iran's proximity to Russia, Moscow should certainly be no less nervous about a nuclear reactor there than Israel.

In his meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, Possolvalyuk got Beilin to agree to support holding the fall meetings of the Middle East multilateral arms control talks in Moscow. He also sought Israeli support on certain issues at the UN, officials in Jerusalem say.

Possolvalyuk is here on one of his periodic trips to the region to discuss the peace process. In his meetings with Israeli officials, he welcomed the move to freeze expropriations in Jerusalem.

Today, he will meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, before going on to Syria and Lebanon.

Arafat seeks help from businessmen

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday made an impassioned plea to Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen to invest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, promising as an incentive whatever incentives and facilities they may need.

He also lashed out at the International Monetary Fund and World Bank for what he said were broken promises and complicated bureaucracy that have deprived the Palestinians of promised aid.

Arafat said he is unable to meet the needs of the residents of the territories simply because he does not have enough funds.

Citing worsening living conditions in the territories and the lack of proper medical services and schools, Arafat said: "My brothers, the Palestinian land and soil is open for you all to come and invest, look for business opportunities, and develop

the Palestinian economy.

"We are keeping an open heart and welcome you all. Everyone of you has equal rights in the land of Palestine... We will give you whatever incentives and facilities you need," he said.

Arafat, who held talks with King Hussein on Tuesday and left for Egypt later yesterday, said the PA had drawn up "an unprecedented investment law that would help you all, encourage you all to help the economic development of your land."

King Hussein, taking the podium before Arafat, reaffirmed support for the Palestinians and the PLO leader.

"We do not recognize anyone else as the representative of the Palestinian people except brother President Arafat," he said.

It was an implicit reference to the presence in Jordan of hard-line Islamic groups like Hamas which challenge the PLO leadership of the Palestinians.

Histadrut probe focuses on possible misuse of Austrian funds

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE investigation into alleged financial irregularities in the Histadrut is now turning to the possible misuse of foreign funds.

Police are probing suspicions that funds transferred to the Histadrut by Austrian trade unions were used by Labor candidates in their primary campaigns before the 1992 Knesset elections.

Histadrut officials who ran for Knesset in 1992 included Transport Minister and former Histadrut secretary-general Yisrael Kessar, former Histadrut organization section head MK Avi Yehzekel, and Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Masha Lubelsky, a former Na'amat secretary-general.

The Austrian trade unions, which have maintained ties with the Histadrut for decades, transfer sums worth tens of thousands of shekels to the Histadrut every

year. The sums are intended to support various research projects, mostly carried out by the Histadrut's Lavon Institute and Institute for Social and Economic Research.

A few weeks ago, police investigators arrived at Histadrut Treasurer Haim Oron's office and took with them documents pertaining to the funds transferred by the Austrians in 1992.

Nobody in the Histadrut or the police could say yesterday how the Austrian funds may have found their way from the Histadrut coffers to Labor candidates' disposal. Histadrut leaders fear that reports of the investigation might harm their relations with trade unions abroad.

In another development, the Histadrut

comptroller has begun looking into alleged misuse of Histadrut funds and facilities in the Arab sector.

The director-general of the comptroller's office, Dr. Aliza Schloss, yesterday sent a letter to the head of the Hadash faction in the Histadrut parliament, Jihad Abel, advising him of the investigation.

Schloss noted that the probe was triggered by Abel's complaint two months ago that in 1992 and 1993 Labor candidates illegally used funds and facilities of Arab labor committees and labor councils.

Schloss added, however, that the comptroller's probe was running into snags mainly because nobody in the comptroller's office speaks Arabic. The office has been looking for some time for a worker who could focus on the Arab sector, she said.

Two injured in shooting on White House grounds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors prepared assault and firearms charges yesterday against a late-night intruder who scaled a White House fence and raced toward the presidential mansion with an unloaded pistol before officers shot him.

Leland William Modjeski, 37, was stopped not far from where President Clinton had stepped from his limousine just a half hour earlier. A Secret Service agent was wounded as he scuffled with Modjeski, apparently by the same shot that brought down the gunman.

The Secret Service said the Clintons were never in danger, and police don't believe Modjeski intended to kill the president.

"At this time, there is nothing to indicate it was an attempted assassination," said Susan Lloyd, spokeswoman for the FBI.

Other police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were examining the theory that Modjeski was depressed and

wanted to get himself hurt. The theory is based on preliminary interviews with acquaintances and the fact that Modjeski brought an unloaded gun into a confrontation with the president's massive security team. Officials stressed they had not settled on a motive for the incident.

Details of Modjeski's personal life and problems began to emerge yesterday. Pizza Hut said he was fired as a delivery driver last December after nearly six months on the job. And suburban George Mason University said he received a master's degree in psychology in 1992 and had been admitted to the university's psychology doctorate program, but had not yet begun studies.

Jokingly calling it "just another day at the White House," Clinton shrugged off the incident, according to his press secretary, Mike McCurry.

"We were never in any danger," Clinton told McCurry. "The service did a great job."

IAI's first upgraded MiG-21 makes its debut flight

ALON PINKAS

A SOVIET-MADE MiG-21, upgraded by Israel Aircraft Industries for an Asian client, made its first test flight yesterday.

The enhanced MiG became the first former Soviet jet fighter to fly after undergoing a comprehensive upgrading in the West.

The upgrade was carried out by Lahav, an IAI military division subsidiary. It involved an entire avionics upgrading that included replacing most of the existing systems of the early 1960s plane.

IAI officials see the successful upgrading contract as a potential marketing spearhead for other upgrading possibilities in large markets in eastern European and other Soviet-made air fleets.

Lahav director-general Shraga Bar-Nissan said that the upgrading is the first of its kind not only in the West, but also in the East, where upgrading has not been performed.

The identity of the country for

which the upgrading was done was not disclosed by IAI, but India reportedly signed such a contract last year. India has a large MiG-21 fleet, as does China.

Israel, Syria agree on principles for Golan talks

HILLEL KUTTLER in WASHINGTON and DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL and Syria have reached a US-brokered agreement on the principles underlying Golan Heights-related security arrangements, enabling military experts to return to the peace negotiations in Washington by the end of next month, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced yesterday.

Israel did not yield on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's insistence that limited forces zones on either side of the Golan not be equal, Israeli sources insist.

This could not be confirmed by non-Israeli sources.

But Rabin did agree that the concept of equality could govern security arrangements in such areas as early warning stations in the Golan and Galilee.

US peace coordinator Dennis Ross will visit the region next week, and Christopher will follow in early June "to develop momentum" in advance of the talks on security arrangements, a senior administration official said.

Rabin praised the development last night, saying it was the fruit of American efforts made during his recent US visit and that of Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, it was reported.

"It took time until we reached a series of understandings, which will permit the continuation of the talks at military levels in the framework that existed on security arrangements," he said.

Rabin said the intention is to withdraw from the Golan Heights in a very limited way for a period of about three years, and to then see how full normalization is implemented, such as whether an embassy can be opened in Damascus and whether there is free passage of people and goods between the two countries.

Israel and Syria have now laid the groundwork for serious security-related negotiations, a senior Clinton Administration official said in a briefing for reporters after the Christopher announcement.

"It's fair to say they've come to an understanding" on discussing the most divisive issue so far—whether arrangements should be asymmetrical on both sides of the Golan Heights, as Israel demands, or equal, as Syria wants, he said.

A US official called the news "an important step," but stopped short of embracing it as a breakthrough.

He said the development represents "the first time we've had Israelis and Syrians come to an agreement on an issue of this sort, and I think that's significant."

The agreement was sealed Tuesday night in two telephone calls between Christopher and Shara, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. This seemed to hint that Syria made the final concessions that made the agreement possible.

Christopher said the understanding on security arrangements "constitutes general terms of reference" for the meeting between "senior military experts."

Officials would not identify the level of the experts.

The talks will be the first between military officials since chiefs of staff Ehud Barak and Hikmat Shihabi met in Washington, together with President Bill Clinton, in late December. Both countries' ambassadors have been meeting sporadically with Ross over the past two months.

Though the military talks are resuming, "there are still significant gaps between the parties," Christopher said in a statement.

"At this point, this is one of those legs [of the peace formula] that if we make headway on it, it will have an impact... on everything else," including withdrawal and its time frame, he said.

"Will this produce an agreement on all those things? I can't tell you. I can't yet say even whether this will produce an agreement on the security arrangements themselves. What I can say is that there is a basis now for discussions between security experts that did not exist before," Christopher said.

Asked what developments have occurred to solve that stalemate since Shara declared just last week that Syria was pressing for equal arrangements, the US official said that "obviously, the issue of equality was an issue and it was discussed for some time, and I think they've come to an understanding on how to approach it."

The official said he didn't believe Israel's reversal on the Jerusalem land expropriation had "a direct impact" on Damascus' willingness to resume the military talks, but he acknowledged that "obviously in the last few days the climate in the region has improved."

"I am happy about the development. I hope this will enhance the dialogue between the two countries," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said.

He said it demonstrates that "the Syrians don't want to stop the talks. I just hope they have enough gas to drive forward."

However, both Peres and Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin cautioned that the agreement did not ensure that peace with Syria would be attained this year.

"The senior military talks are critical," Beilin said. "There has to be a breakthrough in those talks to determine whether there will be peace in 1995."

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Rabin: July deadline will likely be met

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured members of the Meretz Knesset faction yesterday that the July 1 deadline for implementing the next stage of the agreement with the Palestinians will probably be met.

The Meretz MKs had asked for the meeting at Rabin's office to emphasize the importance of abiding by the timetable.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said afterward that he had

been "encouraged."

"There will be an agreement by July 1. This received additional support from this morning's meeting," said Sarid. He later toned this down to "there will be an agreement, there's no doubt about it. The question is when, not if."

Although all the Meretz MKs insisted meeting the deadline is essential, Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein was prepared

LIAT COLLINS

to be more flexible.

Rabin told the faction he is committed to reaching an agreement as soon as possible without harming security interests. He reconfirmed that the redeployment would take place in two stages, before and after the Palestinian elections.

There are still several unresolved issues regarding the elec-

tions, including whether to have polling booths in Jerusalem, as the Palestinians are demanding, Rabin reportedly said.

Faction chairman Ran Cohen stressed that contrary to press reports, Meretz had not presented Rabin with an ultimatum of either meeting the July 1 deadline or losing Meretz as a coalition partner. He also said the meeting with Rabin had been planned two weeks ago and had nothing to do

with the Democratic Arab Party's no-confidence motion on Monday.

Rabin also denied press reports of intensive negotiations with Shas on broadening the coalition.

Meanwhile, Labor MK Avigdor Kahalani wrote Rabin asking him not to give in to Meretz, and prevent any arrangement with the Palestinians that does not ensure the safety of Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria.

'US to Hariri: No Hizbullah in government'

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

THE US has reportedly advised Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri against allowing Hizbullah to participate in a new government.

A message to this effect was conveyed to Hariri by America's chargé d'affaires Ronald Schleicher when he met Hariri on Tuesday, according to the left-wing Lebanese daily *As-Safir*.

The newspaper quoted sources in Washington as saying that the inclusion of Hizbullah in the cabinet would have a "negative impact" on US-Lebanese relations.

As-Safir and other newspapers speculated that the US would prolong a ban on its citizens traveling to Lebanon, which was imposed in 1987, if Hizbullah was allowed into the government.

The extremist Shi'ite organization was widely held responsible for the kidnapping of Western hostages in the 1980s and attacks on US targets in Lebanon, including that in which over 200 US marines were killed.

Hizbullah, which holds eight

seats in the Lebanese parliament, has itself been heatedly debating its future and especially whether it should move more into the national Lebanese political arena.

This stance is supported by Hizbullah secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, but is opposed by hard-liners led by Sheikh Subhi Toufeil, who maintain that the organization should concentrate on the fight against Israel in the security zone and, if necessary, revert back to its 1980 policies.

The leadership of the organization, which is trying to prepare Hizbullah for the future especially in light of a possible peace treaty between Israel, Syria and Lebanon, has not yet decided on whether or not to enter the government.

Nevertheless, Hariri himself has met with some Hizbullah leaders and has reportedly considered bringing the organization into the government as part of the overall reconciliation and recovery program for Lebanon after the 1975-1990 civil war.

Rabin, Darawshe bury the hatchet

LIAT COLLINS

PEACE ostensibly returned to the coalition yesterday afternoon when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Democratic Arab Party leader Abdul Wahab Darawshe publicly made up after the DAP's no-confidence motion Monday.

Rabin also met with Meretz MKs and ministers earlier in the day.

Onlookers close to the Labor Party described the meeting with the DAP as "more of a public relations gimmick" than anything else.

Darawshe told reporters after the meeting he was satisfied with what he had heard from Rabin about the government's commitment to the peace process and the July 1 redeployment deadline.

DAP MK Taleh A-Sanaa said the party had rejoined the coalition's

blocking majority, as long as the government stands by its commitments.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anana Cohen described the meeting "as friendly and pleasant." But despite assuring reporters that a *salwa* had been achieved, Cohen seemed more in the mood to forgive than forget. Asked if this meant the coalition could be assured of the DAP vote in the future, Cohen hesitated before replying: "Sometimes there are accidents on the way."

Speaking later on an Israel Radio talk show, Darawshe claimed that Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu had tried to persuade him several times to help him topple the government and join him in a Likud-led coalition. Netanyahu denied this.



Faisal Hussein (left) at his meeting yesterday at Orient House with European diplomats. (Brian Hendler)

Sarid: De facto Palestinian state on way

SARAH HONIG

IN a "few months a de facto Palestinian state will have been established, just as Meretz has always advocated and campaigned for," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid predicted at a session of the Meretz council yesterday.

The council was convened to deal with differences on how to elect and rank the party's Knesset list.

"Elections for the Palestinian authority will be held in the territories in a few months, and the IDF will be redeployed. On the Syrian front, too, we should also expect very positive developments soon," Sarid added.

Sarid's words were seen as a form of pep talk to raise morale after the party had sunk into collective depression following Hadash's success in putting the Jerusalem land expropriations on hold. Meretz itself had unsuccessfully campaigned against the expropriations.

A different note was struck by Communications Minister Shlomit

Aloni, who warned that "if the agreement with the PLO on elections in the territories and on redeployment is not successfully finalized by July 1, there will be no reason for us to remain in the government."

The three components of Meretz are at odds over how to put together the party's next Knesset slate. Shimi wants the ratio according to which safe slots were divided on the last Knesset list changed, and this is hotly opposed, mainly by Mapam. According to the 1992 formula, five of each 10 slots go to the Citizens Rights Movement, which is the largest component. Three go to Mapam and two to Shimi.

Shimi maintains it is being short-changed, while Mapam charges that Shimi foiled the total merger of the Meretz components, and that it unfairly ended up with the most important portfolio (Education) given Meretz.

Maxim Levy snubs Netanyahu

YET another effort to make peace inside the Likud fell through last night because chairman Benjamin Netanyahu was 10 minutes late for an appointment with Likud central committee chairman Maxim Levy.

Netanyahu had been seeking to meet with Levy to try to agree on a date for convening the central committee to discuss the primary system the Likud would adopt.

Levy finally agreed to meet Netanyahu yesterday evening at the Kfar Hamaccabiah Hotel, but when Netanyahu was late, Levy walked out in a huff. Ten minutes later, Netanyahu appeared but had no one to talk to, despite the fact that the party secretariat meets tonight for its final discussion of the primary system.

Sarah Honig

Husseini meets with foreign diplomats on land expropriations

JON IMMANUEL

FAISAL Hussein met with representatives of foreign embassies yesterday at Orient House, a day after meeting with Jerusalem-based consuls to discuss the government's decision to freeze land expropriations in Jerusalem.

Husseini repeated his claim that the government action was

not enough and was only a temporary freeze.

"If Israel has a right to expropriate land in Jerusalem we have a right to expropriate land in Haifa, Jaffa, Ramle and Lod and Talbich [a Jerusalem neighbor-

hood]," Hussein told a resident of Silwan, whose own house was one of eight the government claims was Jewish-owned before 1948.

Husseini was referring to towns in Israel and homes in western Jerusalem where many Palestinians lived before 1948.

Palestinian Police discovers arms cache in raid on Gaza house

JON IMMANUEL

PALESTINIAN security police raided a house in the Zaitoun neighborhood of Gaza yesterday and uncovered a substantial weapons cache under the floor in one room.

Two Hamas members, brothers Nabeed and Saker Abu Assi, were arrested, but others were thought to have escaped.

The weapons included pistols, grenades, six rifles, ammunition, and ammunition clips. Hamas documents were also found, said Gen. Musa Arafat, head of Palestinian military intelligence. Pornographic videos were found, apparently confiscated from video sellers as part of an Islamic morality drive.

Hamas officials denied the

house was a Hamas hideout or that the two men were known Hamas members.

Arafat, who is no relation to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, has been targeted twice by Hamas gunmen. In one of the attacks, a bodyguard was wounded.

After the suicide attacks that killed seven Israelis and an American student near Kfar Darom and Netzarim on April 9, the PA gave Hamas and other opposition groups until May 11 to hand in any licensed weapons. It warned that after the date passed any weapons found would subject their bearers to prosecution.

PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidin said that there would be no house-to-house search for weapons, but houses would be raided if there was information about arms dumps.

Meanwhile in student elections at Bir Zeit University, near Ramallah, an Islamic list retained control of the student council it won last year with the help of left-wing opposition groups. Fatah won 21 seats and the opposition list 30 seats to the 51-seat student council.

Ramallah is traditionally a stronghold of the left-wing opposition Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is supported by many Christian students.

Knesset rejects opposition bills on expanding Israeli sovereignty

LIAT COLLINS

OPPOSITION ranks showed signs of more discontent yesterday when the Knesset rejected two bills on increasing Israeli sovereignty.

The first, by Esther Salmovitz (Yi'ud), "to ensure sovereignty over the territories" and aimed at guaranteeing the security of Jewish settlements in the territories, was defeated 44-37.

The other, by Tsomet MK Rafael Eitan, entitled "The Jordan Valley and Judean Valley First," and aimed at ensuring Israeli sovereignty over those areas, fell by 44-31. Only 12 Likud MKs were present for the votes, while the coalition

turned out in force.

Justice Minister David Libai, responding to both bills, said the proposed legislation was an attempt to violate the Oslo Agreement, which states that discussions on permanent borders would only take place at a later stage. "These are attempts to establish facts on the ground. We will not change the status of the territories now, and definitely not unilaterally," Libai said.

After the vote, Eitan attacked the Likud, saying "although it spoke of opposition unity it did not bother to come and vote on an important subject."



Joe Cocker poses yesterday on Mount Scopus before last night's concert in front of 4,000 fans at Jerusalem's Sultan's Pool. (Brian Hendler)

ברוך דיין האמת

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of my beloved husband, our father, grandfather, and brother, a very dear man

Reb MOSHE SHEFFER ז"ל

Son of Itzhak Yehuda

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, May 25, 1995 (25 Iyar 5755) leaving at 10:30 a.m. from the home of the deceased, 15 Hayarden St., Ramat Gan, for Sgula Cemetery, Petah Tikva.

Mourners:

Wife: Tova Sheffer
Son and daughter-in-law: Itzhak and Ann Sheffer
Daughter and son-in-law: Atara and Yosef Ehrenberg
Brothers: Yosef and Zvi Sheffer
grandchildren and the great-grandson

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מלא מן אלו

Customs deprives two of immigrant rights

EVELYN GORDON

THE customs authorities unjustly deprived two people who left Israel as minors of their immigrant rights, even though the Absorption Ministry had said they were eligible.

By law, someone who emigrates with his parents before the age of 15, stays abroad more than four years, and returns after 17 is eligible for immigrant rights. In two cases investigated by Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat, however, the customs authorities refused to allow duty-free imports to people who had remained abroad longer than their parents had.

Both women had checked with the Absorption Ministry and confirmed that they had immigrant

rights before trying to bring in a lift, and one woman even succeeded in bringing in one duty-free lift, and buying a duty-free car, before being slapped with tariffs on her second lift.

In both cases, the women had to take out large loans to pay the duty on their lifts, as well as the sizable storage fees they were charged for the months their goods sat in the port while they were arranging these loans. The customs authorities also retroactively billed the second woman for the duty on her car, plus linkage and interest.

The authorities claimed that the law was only meant to en-

courage youngsters taken abroad by their parents to return - not to reward those who, as adults, chose to stay abroad after their parents had already returned.

However, Ben-Porat ruled that the language of the law makes no distinction between those who return after their parents and those who return before them.

"It is also inconceivable that one governmental authority responsible for dealing with a certain matter should give someone certain information, while another authority which also deals with that matter denies that information," she added.

The authority promised to abide by Ben-Porat's ruling in the future.



Public Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat presents Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss with her report yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

El Al rapped for treatment of bereaved passengers

EVELYN GORDON

EL AL behaved with utter callousness towards two bereaved men trying to get to their father's funeral, ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat said.

The two men are non-Jewish citizens of Israel who live in Greece. One Sunday, they were notified by phone that their father was seriously ill. All airline offices are closed on Sunday in Greece, so they were able to call El Al only at 5 a.m. Monday morning, when they were told that seats were available on a 7:10 a.m. flight.

They arrived at the airport 20 minutes later, and, while waiting to buy their tickets, learned that their father had died, and would be buried at 1 p.m. No other flight on any airline would enable them to make the funeral.

Nevertheless, the clerk refused to sell them tickets, and the station manager upheld this decision, saying they had not arrived three hours early as required, and they could never complete the security check before the plane took off. Neither the fact that they were trying to make their father's funeral nor the fact that they each had only a small suitcase changed his mind.

The complainants charged that the manager discriminated against them because they were minorities. When they called, the agent had told them there would be no problem if they came right away, they noted. Furthermore, they said, several passengers who arrived more than an hour after them - with many suitcases - were passed through security and boarded with no problem.

When questioned by the ombudsman, El Al admitted that it should have behaved differently, and offered the two men compensation of \$365 apiece - the price of a ticket. The two men demanded \$100,000 apiece for their suffering. Ben-Porat ordered compensation of \$750 apiece.

"The manager's decision not to let the complainants board was a miserable decision, which stemmed from insensitivity," she wrote. "He ignored the complainants' distress... and demonstrated no willingness to give them any special assistance."

Ministry delays couple's passport application

EVELYN GORDON

THE Interior Ministry unreasonably delayed a couple's application for a passport, the ombudsman's report found.

The couple, who live in Nahariya, first made two fruitless visits to the ministry's office there because they were twice given the wrong information over the phone as to when the office was open.

When they finally got there at the right time, they were told they already had passports issued by the consulate in Paris, and

could not be given new ones unless they paid the double fee for lost passports. They refused, saying they never got passports in Paris, and were therefore sent to the Acre office.

In Acre, the office manager rudely told them to wait, and the husband responded by bursting into his room. The manager then summoned the police. A few days later, the couple went back to the Nahariya office, and the clerk said the Acre manager had forbidden her to deal with them.

A month later, the clerk in Acre said she had been given the same order.

Eventually, the couple's case was sent to the main office in Jerusalem, which checked with the Paris consulate and was told that they had indeed received passports there. The Jerusalem office therefore insisted on the double fee, and the couple, desperate for their passports, agreed, but wrote that they were

paying under protest.

When Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat investigated, she found that the couple were correct: They had applied for new passports in Paris when their own were stolen, but canceled the application when the French police found the passports. The clerk at the consulate, however, had failed to adjust the computer accordingly.

The couple were also justified in complaining about the incorrect information given them on

the Nahariya office's hours, and about the month's delay before the Acre office sent their case to Jerusalem, Ben-Porat said. Neither the manager's illness nor a strike by ministry workers accounted for the whole delay, she said.

However, Ben-Porat found that the Nahariya office was justified in passing the couple on to the regional office in Acre, and the Acre office, in turn, was justified in sending their case on to Jerusalem.

Settlement took money for political activities

EVELYN GORDON

NOFIM, a settlement in Samaria, illegally collected money from its residents for political activities, the ombudsman's report found.

A similar case, challenging allocations by Golan settlements to associations fighting the return of the Golan to Syria, is currently pending before the High Court of Justice.

The complainant said he was charged NIS 5 by Nofim as dues for the "Fund to Fight Autonomy," which is run by the Samaria Regional Council. He charged that both forcing him to pay the dues and the fund's very existence were illegal.

The council, when asked, agreed that forcing him to pay the dues was wrong, and said it had instructed all settlements to collect only voluntary contributions. However, it denied that the fund itself was illegal, saying its activities touched on the welfare, and even the very existence, of the region's settlements.

Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat, however, agreed with the complainant on both counts. The activities in which a regional council is permitted to engage are clearly defined by law, she said, and they do not include political activity of any sort. "The fund has no right to exist, since it is earmarked for an activity not included among the roles of a local authority," she wrote.

Teacher given transfer notice without hearing

EVELYN GORDON

A TEACHER was threatened with transfer to another school for no reason, without even being given a chance to defend herself, Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found.

The teacher, who works in an elementary school in Samaria, went on maternity leave in May 1993. In June, she was told she was being transferred, because she had been disrupting the work of the school's various principals over the years.

In August, after the teachers' union threatened a work dispute, the transfer was canceled. However, the teacher complained to Ben-Porat, protesting both the fact that the decision was made without a hearing and without proving the actual ac-

sation against her. To support her claim, she submitted a letter from the previous principal that praised her cooperativeness.

Her supervisor later admitted to Ben-Porat that he could not substantiate his accusation against the teacher.

Had the teacher been given a chance to prove the baselessness of the charges, Ben-Porat added, she would have been spared needless suffering.

Ben-Porat instructed the Education Ministry to explain to all its supervisors that they could not transfer a teacher without checking the facts carefully and giving the teacher a hearing.

Moslem cemeteries in Lod, Ramle in need of increased supervision

EVELYN GORDON

MOSLEM cemeteries in Lod and Ramle are horribly neglected, despite the fact that Moslem trusts are paid NIS 1,700 per grave by the National Insurance Institute to care for the cemeteries, ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found.

Both complainants said families in these neighborhoods are often forced to bury their dead themselves, at their own expense, because the local Moslem trust does nothing. The grave sites are

not marked, they added, so families often turn up someone else's bones while digging their loved one's grave. Furthermore, said the Ramle man, bones are strewn all over and garbage is piled on the graves.

In a visit to the grave sites, Ben-Porat verified all these complaints except the charge that bones were strewn all over.

The trusts responded that they

could not interfere with families' choice of grave sites, but agreed that the upkeep of the cemeteries was inappropriate. On a return visit, Ben-Porat's staff did find the level of cleanliness much improved.

The problem, however, is widespread, and requires increased supervision by the Religious Affairs Ministry, Ben-Porat said.

The subject was also dealt with in the state comptroller's report.

Postal Authority employee unjustly fired

EVELYN GORDON

THE Postal Authority unjustly fired an employee, ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat ruled.

The man was hired in 1990 as a temporary employee, whose contract was periodically renewed. In 1992, he asked to be made a permanent employee. His manager refused, and the Histadrut sent a letter on his behalf to the authority. Shortly afterwards, he was fired.

The complainant charged that he was fired because of the Histadrut's intervention. He had

always received good reports from his superiors, he said, and his contract had been renewed just a month earlier. The authority, in contrast, said he was fired because of poor performance and poor relations with his superiors. They had wanted to fire him back in 1990, the authority said, but he was kept on due to a manpower shortage.

Ben-Porat rejected the authority's claims. The man's reports

had been excellent until just before he was fired, she noted; the final, negative reports were written only after the Histadrut's letter arrived. Furthermore, she said, one of the supervisors who wrote that final report had a clear personal interest in preventing the man from becoming a permanent employee.

Ben-Porat therefore ruled that the man be given full severance pay for an unjust firing, along with the subsequent interest and linkage.

Immigrant denied nursing license

EVELYN GORDON

THE Health Ministry unfairly tried to keep an immigrant nurse from getting licensed in Israel, according to the ombudsman's report.

The woman, a registered nurse in Russia, passed her preliminary licensing course with flying colors, and also received glowing reports from Hadassah Hospital.

However, she failed three of her exams in the second licensing course, and the ministry refused to allow her to retake them unless she first worked for two years as a practical nurse in a recognized hospital.

Ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found this decision unjustifiably harsh, in light of the fact that much of her difficulty with the second set of exams was apparently due to language problems.

Stent insertion helps man breathe

A 60-YEAR-OLD man with inoperable lung cancer this week became the first patient here to have a stent (metallic cylinder) inserted into the lower part of his trachea and bronchi to improve his breathing.

Prof. Simon Godfrey and Dr. Moti Kremer operated.

Employee's health fund dues wrongfully transferred

EVELYN GORDON

THE Government Employment Service deducted dues for the Histadrut's health fund from an employee's salary long after she had transferred to another health fund, ombudsman Miriam Ben-Porat found.

The employee informed the service in August 1992 that she was switching from the Histadrut's Kupat Holim Clalit to Leumi. However, she was told that the service would not stop debiting her salary until it received confirmation of the switch from the Histadrut. She succeeded in getting this only three

months later.

The service then refused to refund the money, saying the employee had to get the refund from the Histadrut.

Ben-Porat said the service's behavior accorded with neither the law nor the government's contract with the Histadrut. Both say an employee can stop deductions for Kupat Holim merely by submitting two copies of a written request to his employer.

Furthermore, she said, since the Employment Service had made the illegal deductions, it was responsible for refunding the money. The service eventually did so.

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Smoking in public endangers life, two leading rabbis rule

JUDY SIEGEL

TWO prominent Jerusalem rabbis have officially declared that anyone who smokes in public "endangers human life" and anyone exposed to passive smoking has the right to demand compensation from the smoker.

Rabbi Zalman Nehemia Goldberg and Rabbi Levi Yitzhak Halperin, who heads the Jerusalem Institute for Science and Halacha, issued a halachic ruling published yesterday in an advertisement in the Agudat Yisrael daily *Hamodia*. The ad was prepared by the Ra'fa (Medicine According to Halacha) organization, chaired by Rabbi Yehoshua Scheinberger of the Eda Haredit. It was paid for by the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking, and issued with the approval of the Health Ministry and the Israel Cancer Association.

In the ad, the two declare that smoking endangers the health of non-smokers.

"There is a very serious ban on smoking in public places," they declared. They also urged adults not to allow boys to smoke to "prove" they are "men" or as part of merrymaking on Purim. Such "one-time occasions" can turn into a habit and make children grow up to be tobacco addicts, the rabbis declared.

Scheinberger said he has signed up 300 physicians - 200 Israelis and 100 from the US - who smoke and have committed to quit, so they can be an example to the public they treat. He is also appealing to the highest rabbinical authorities in Israel to take a firm stand against smoking.

Hamodia receives a significant part of its advertising revenue from the Dubek tobacco company. Scheinberger says he hopes his ads, which will appear in major Israeli papers and magazines, will "make publishers and smokers ashamed."

Three die in Sarajevo as fighting escalates

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Three people were killed and at least 15 wounded yesterday as fighting around Sarajevo escalated sharply with Serbs apparently using phosphorus shells in ways banned by Geneva war conventions.

At least one shell containing phosphorus, which can cause severe burns, is believed to have been used during fierce fighting around a city market.

"My guess, and it's only a guess, an educated military guess, is that that's white phosphorus," Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward, a UN spokesman, said as he watched TV footage of an impact near a city market yesterday.

The Geneva convention tolerates the use of phosphorus in a "defensive manner" but it is banned as an offensive weapon.

"It's used by NATO countries as a smoke marking round but it can be used in a destructive mode because it burns. These bits in the air are the little bits of white phosphorus, from which, in contact with the air, the smoke starts to billow. But if those bits hit the skin, bad burns result," Coward said.

Coward, an experienced British helicopter pilot, said only an analysis of the shell crater could confirm the substance was phosphorus and where it was fired from. Other UN sources said it was likely the shell came from Bosnian Serb lines.

Reports of other phosphorus shells being used near the city's old Jewish cemetery, where witnesses saw plumes of thick white smoke, could not be immediately confirmed.

Wednesday's fighting included tanks, artillery, mortar and possibly rocket fire, Alexander Ivanko, a UN spokesman, said.

Sarajevo was proclaimed a total exclusion zone in February 1994 with both sides pulling their heavy guns outside a 20 kilometer radius from the city center, but this has eroded steadily over the past two months.

Despite the use of banned heavy weaponry the United Nations failed to call in NATO warplanes, claiming the fight was evenly balanced and civilians were not targeted deliberately.

Ivanko said: "There is a limit to what the UN force, being a peace-keeping one, can do on the ground, when the warring parties appear to have committed themselves to fighting it out on the battlefield."

A score of heavy mortar bombs slammed into a jumble of front-line trenches along the ridge at Dobro Brdo, a steep hill south of the capital, fiercely contested last week.

Russians launch attack on eve of planned talks with Chechens

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Russian forces using artillery and warplanes launched a major offensive against rebel positions in southern Chechnya yesterday on the eve of planned peace talks. Russian news agencies reported.

"To fulfill the operation, we shall use all available forces and means," said the local Russian commander, Lt.-Gen. Mikhail Yegorov, in an interview with the Interfax news agency.

"We shall move slowly but sure-

ly, trying to reduce to a minimum the casualties among personnel and the civilian population," he said.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said federal forces launched air and artillery attacks against rebels yesterday morning in the southern, southeastern and western parts of Chechnya.

The fighting did not bode well for peace talks scheduled for this morning in Grozny, the ruined Chechen capital now held by the

Russians. A Chechen military spokesman told the Interfax news agency that the Russian offensive violated the schedule of preparations for the talks, which called for a cease-fire by midnight last night.

"On the Chechen side there is a decree to that effect by [Chechen President] Dzhokhar Dudayev and orders have been handed out in written form to all field commanders," the official was quoted as saying.

Ex-British premier Harold Wilson dies at 79

LONDON (Reuters) - Harold Wilson, Britain's youngest prime minister this century and the last leader of the Labor Party to win a general election, died in his sleep yesterday after a long illness. He was 79.

Wilson, a consummate political tactician, guided his divided party to four election victories in the 1960s and 1970s in a record unmatched in modern times even by Margaret Thatcher.

His wife, Mary, said the former prime minister, who retired suddenly in 1976 after 13 years as labor leader, died peacefully around midnight. He had been fighting cancer for 15 years.

Tributes poured in from all over the world, including from Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

The day's main parliamentary business was canceled out of respect for a man at the heart of British life for four decades as



Harold Wilson. (AP)

political friends and foes paid tribute in the House of Commons.

Conservative Prime Minister John Major, leading tributes,

hailed Wilson as a sparkling political figure and "one of the most brilliant men of his generation."

Despite his unsurpassed electoral record, Wilson's legacy is mixed. Many regard him as a good manager and supreme political "fixer" rather than a great statesman.

"I think he will stand in history as not one of the greatest of prime ministers but as a very good member of the second group who certainly had his impact on British politics," Roy Jenkins, an ex-Labor minister who later broke away from the party, said.

Labor leader Tony Blair said Wilson, when he took power in 1964, was to politics what the Beatles were to popular culture.

"It was a new era in which the British people were looking forward in a spirit of hope and optimism. He personified this new era," Blair told parliament.

Israeli doctor appointed deputy medical director of UN peacekeeping forces

JUDY SIEGEL

AN Israeli expert in emergency medicine has been appointed deputy medical director of the UN peacekeeping forces.

Dr. Ya'acov Adler, a former director-general of Magen David Adom who is retiring early as head of emergency medicine at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, will take up the post in Geneva on June 7.

The senior UN post requires touring locations where UN peacekeeping forces are active, including Serbia and Croatia, Africa and Angola.

Adler will be setting up services for them and establishing contacts with local health services.

Just prior to his departure, Adler will chair the Ninth World Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine at the Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem.

The event, which opens on Sunday, will include a discussion of the Oklahoma City bombing by the chief of medical services in Oklahoma; the Kobe earthquake in Japan; the Twin Towers terrorist blast in New York; the poison-gas disaster in Tokyo; refugee services in Rwanda and the civil strife in the former Yugoslavia.

Defense Ministry gets new deputy director-general

BRIG-GEN. (res.) Kuti Mor has been appointed Defense Ministry Deputy Director-General for Defense Sales and Foreign Affairs, as of May 1 of this year. Deputy Director-General Mor's department is responsible for security-related foreign liaison and political-military aspects of Israel's foreign affairs.

New law protects teens sent to psychiatric wards

LIAT COLLINS

CHILDREN over 15 will be able to object in court to their parents forcing them to be placed in a psychiatric hospital, according to a law which passed second and third reading in the Knesset yesterday.

The law was proposed by Benny Temkin (Meretz), who described it as "my most important achievement in the Knesset." Today, only someone over 18 has the right to object and appeal the order.

The law allows the youth to employ a lawyer, funded by the court, to fight the case. It also establishes regulations on periodic review of hospitalized minors by a special regional psychiatric committee for children and youth.

The law came up today as part of the opening of International Children's Month.

Temkin told the plenum that needy children are found on society's margins and pushed aside. "These children have no lobby," Temkin said.

He said the problem of young girls was even more serious as they often suffer permanent victimization and internalize their needs rather than expressing them. He asked Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir to increase the number of personnel dealing with needy girls, saying that experts estimate that some 10,000 to 12,000 of them do not get the treatment they need.

Court told IBA violating law on sign language

EVELYN GORDON

THE Israel Broadcasting Authority is violating the law requiring it to broadcast news programs in sign language once a week, a petition to the High Court of Justice charged yesterday.

The petition was filed by Bizbut, the association for civil rights for the disabled, and the Association for the Deaf. It is the second petition the two organizations have filed on the subject.

According to a 1992 law, the IBA is obligated to broadcast one news program a week in sign language. In addition, one-quarter of all Hebrew and Arabic programming must be subtitled.

In January 1994, the two organizations petitioned the High Court to protest that this law had still not been implemented. In response, the IBA drew up the necessary directives, got them approved by the Knesset Education Committee, and promised to implement them by April 1, 1995.

The directives were even more stringent than required by law: The IBA promised to translate the late-night news into sign language every night.

However, the petition said, even the minimum required by law - to say nothing of the directives - has still not been implemented.

Not only is the IBA violating the law, the petition charged, but by doing so, it is perpetuating the social isolation and second-class status of the hard-of-hearing. The TV is a key source of news, it said, and access to this medium is essential for the integration of the hard-of-hearing into society.

United Israel Appeal of Canada

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Going once: 'Anglos' bang the gavel here for charity

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

AS the promotional flyers state, you don't have to be a North American to bid in the 1995 Grand Auction of the Central Region of AACI - the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel. It's open to anyone, anywhere.

The live auction takes place on Monday at Beit Asia in Tel Aviv - but you don't have to be there to bid.

You can bid in advance until 7 a.m. Sunday by telephone (03-525-2856) or fax (03-528-2614), 24 hours a day. There is also a mail option (Auction, POB 4807, Tel Aviv 61047) - but I wouldn't rely on it at this late date.

By the silent-bidding method, you can bid either for items slated for the live auction or for items on a different list, which is solely a silent auction. Bids begin at 40 percent of the listed shekel value in the catalog.

The most valuable item scheduled for the live auction is a pair of round-trip plane tickets to any American Airlines destination in the continental USA, valued at NIS 11,000 and donated by the airline.

Among the least expensive items are children's T-shirts, valued at NIS 15 each and made and donated by Mitzline Mode, a Karmiel company that employs new immigrants.

In between these price extremes are dozens of offerings, including matchmaking services, legal advice, dream analysis, US magazine subscriptions, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra tickets, vacation packages, restaurant meals, a baseball glove, an Agam Rainbow Torah and homemade apple pies. These examples are drawn from both the live- and silent-auction lists.

All the goods and services were donated to AACI by private individuals and commercial firms. All proceeds will go toward helping North American new and veteran immigrants find appropriate employment.

Items donated have a total value of NIS 180,000, according to Kimberly Lindy, AACI Central Region director.

Auction catalogs were sent to some 3,500 households of AACI

members in the central region (below Netanyahu to Ashdod), as well as to all contributors and to what Lindy calls "the Who's Who of Tel Aviv."

Catalogs with the full list of items and the auction rules are still available, free of charge, at AACI's central-region headquarters 22 Mazeh St., Tel Aviv, (03-629-9799); at national headquarters in Jerusalem (02-661181); and at regional offices in Netanya (09-330950), Beersheba (07-230688) and Haifa (04-384319).

Although there is no charge for the catalog, those who want to attend the live auction must pay a NIS 50 fee, which includes entrance to a grand raffle and to a cocktail reception at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required, via the central-region office in Tel Aviv, and places are still available. The auction begins promptly at 7:30 p.m. and will include some surprise items.

In the foyer of Beit Asia, there will also be an art auction with silent bidding, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and ending near the close of the live auction.

Art items include an original "Dry Bones" cartoon by Ya'akov Kirschen, which appeared on the cover of *Network* magazine and is valued at NIS 300; a rock garden suitable for home or office landscaping by garden architect Ira Director, valued at NIS 3,000; and - most valuable - an oil painting by Shulberg, whose work is displayed at the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, valued at NIS 20,000 and given to AACI by an anonymous donor.

ONE MIGHT have expected the proliferation of American fast-food chains here to raise the standards of what passes for a hamburger in commercially frozen foods. In some instances, this has occurred.

Hod Lavan's new "Hamburger Anak" (giant hamburger) may not be the best in the world, but it is certainly worthy of its name. This hamburger contains nothing except ground beef; there are no spices or chemical additives. There is some residue of salt from the kashering process, of course,



Food Club's meat-filled kubbek comes in two versions: already fried and ready to fry.

but not enough to disqualify it as an acceptable American-style hamburger.

What's more, the size is a hefty 150 gr., whereas 100 gr. is about average for other products on the

market. Each package contains three of these giant burgers and retails for NIS 11 to NIS 13.

They can be grilled or fried. Despite the American taste, there is not a word of English on the label of this Hod Lavan Hamburger Anak. The wrapper has a black background with red-and-gold-colored trim, and there is a photo of a giant hamburger with onion, tomato and lettuce inside a sesame bun.

IN CONTRAST, two new lines of ready-to-heat meat products by Tibon-Veal have little to recommend themselves to American tastes other than the chance to win a US vacation for two in a raffle.

One line is made of chicken, in yellow wrappers; the other from veal, in dark-red wrappers. Especially disappointing is the product called "Schnitzel Egel" (veal schnitzel), which had members of my family anticipating a genuine Wiener schnitzel as a welcome change from poultry schnitzels. Instead, we found it almost inedible, thanks to Middle Eastern spicing and too much salt. The price for anyone still interested - is NIS 19 for 750 gr.

What Tibon-Veal calls "Hamburger Egel" (veal hamburger) is also an insult to the name. It is a small, Middle Eastern spiced, salty meat patty. Since the hamburger tastes like kebab, I didn't even bother tasting the product which admitted to being "Kebab Egel" (veal kebab). Both sell for NIS 12 for 450 gr.

The hamburger and kebab are microwavable and therefore more suitable for children to prepare alone. The breaded items, whether from veal or poultry, must be heated in an oven or toaster-oven, or fried, in order to retain their crispness.

By far the best of the lot is the "Schnitzel Amiti" (genuine schnitzel), made in both turkey and chicken versions.

A package of 900 gr. sells for NIS 27. "Genuine" on a schnitzel label is local commercial code signifying that it is made from a solid chunk of meat and not from little pieces which have been pressed together in the factory.

The Tibon-Veal genuine turkey schnitzel tastes quite good, if a bit too salty for my taste. In fact, I was pleasantly surprised to find it so good, since the term "phosphates" appears on the label.

Phosphates are chemicals often

used in factory-processed meat products here, supposedly to improve their appearance and texture after the kashering process. The Health Ministry permits phosphates in meats in controlled quantities. I try to avoid them, not for health reasons, but because I usually find they give a funny taste to all meats.

This Tibon-Veal schnitzel is an exception. My approval does not extend to the same series "Schnitzel Hazeh Of" ("chicken breast schnitzel"), which is not made from a solid piece of meat but from little pieces stuck together, with spices which I didn't like at all.

My husband, however, preferred this to the so-called genuine schnitzel. A 750-gr. package of the chicken-breast schnitzel sells for NIS 16.

After that, I didn't try the "Tabat Of" (chicken rings), 650 gr. for NIS 18; and "Schnitzeloni Of" (chicken nuggets), 700 gr. for NIS 16. Both of these are made from cut-up or ground-up pieces, processed together into little shapes, meant for children or as hors d'oeuvres.

The cellophane-wrapped trays have no English labeling other than the name "Tibon-Veal" and, where applicable, the word "microwave." Food Club's "Grill Fillet Of" (grilled fillet of chicken breast, barbecue style) is another frozen-meat product which looks better than it tastes - at least to North American palates.

It is a very salty, chemical-tasting, gummy-textured chicken breast which has been injected with water and phosphates. For those who don't mind this, Food Club's chicken breast can be found in packages of 350 gr. for NIS 14.90, labeled in Hebrew only.

Perhaps the best thing that can be said about this product is that it is low fat and low calorie - with only 2.5 gr. of fat and 105 calories per 100 gr.

NO ONE can fault Food Club for the fact that its kubbek - a Middle Eastern specialty - is highly spiced. It comes in two versions - one ready fried, one ready to fry; both are meat filled.

The version which requires frying costs NIS 7.80 per 500 gr., while the ready-fried product, which only needs heating, costs NIS 8.30 per 400 gr.

Down at the heel: Foot fashion for women becomes grounded

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE best vantage point for a quick survey of how people are shod is from a bus - preferably during peak hour, when traffic congestion guarantees a stop of at least a minute or two.

Afforded a few such opportunities this week, I saw everything but high-heeled shoes.

Was I surprised?

Not really. Women here, like their New York sisters, seldom wear stilettos in the street.

Many New Yorkers wear sneakers or other flat-heeled shoes outdoors and carry a bag with their more glamorous footwear to don indoors.

Pavements are not user friendly even to flat-heeled shoes, let alone high heels, which are in danger of being trapped amidst the cobblestones and the uneven pavement. In Jerusalem especially, the easiest way to get a broken

ankle is to wear slim, high heels in the street.

The general antipathy toward pencil-thin high heels is reflected in most of the new summer collections, which by and large are devoid of any heel more finely honed than the width of three fingers bunched together.

At the Roger Vivier shoe boutique in Paris, women can find reissued models of classic, stiletto-heeled, pointy-toed shoes modeled on styles from the 1950s, '60s and '70s. Here, however, stiletto heels are difficult to find.

The sexy heels can be seen mainly in gold and silver ankle boots of the lace-up variety. In fact, lace-up boots and shoes, which conquered the market last winter, are still holding the fort for summer. Not all are terribly sturdy or comfortable, with the notable exception of brands such as BeautiFeel, which since its



Sergio Rossi offers elegant choices with higher heels.

1990 debut has unflinching combined esthetics with orthopedic comfort.

Unfortunately, not all boots, shoes and sandals offer the same cushy padding, nor the flexible, light-as-air latex soles, which are this season's innovation. Prices

start at NIS 189 up to NIS 299. Linen is a signal player in the summer footwear game, appearing both in casual and formal styles.

Linen thongs and sandals under the YA-P label dominate the Dor-Ziv production lines. Edged



Romika has found a perfect combination of youthful styling and shock-absorbent heels for its senior clientele.

in either gold or ethnic print binding, both the thongs and the sandals are sturdy built to hold the foot firmly in place. Unlike rubber thongs, however, these are not flexible and can be a little uncomfortable. Sizing is also slightly smaller than standard.

Customers would be well advised to buy one size larger than usual. They are priced at NIS 49 to NIS 59.

Nimrod, famous for its biblical sandals, has become the local agent for the well-known British Clark's sandals. Made from soft

leather, these sandals also provide good support for the foot and retail for NIS 199 to NIS 259.

Taking into account the brittle bones of senior citizens, Romika has combined youthful styling with shock-absorbent heels.

A good-quality sandal, Romika comes in sling-back and ankle-strap options in neutral black, brown, white and beige, as well as earth and sand tonings, and sells for NIS 184.

A decidedly more elegant choice than any of the above comes from premier Italian shoe manufacturer Sergio Rossi, who in addition to manufacturing under his own name, designs private-label footwear for some of Italy's top couture houses.

Sergio Rossi knows that shoes are the accent and has retrospective, multi-crisscross sandals with heel heights of 3, 5, 7 and 9 cm. Most of his designs are produced in supersoft nappa or in patent leather. Quality always has a price, and in this case it starts at NIS 369, rising to NIS 1,199.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

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1ER JEANS - waist 42, straight leg, new, NIS 98. 02-603987, 8-11 a.m.
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WALKMAN - Sanyo, FM/AM tape, hardly used, with earphones, NIS 250. 02-620024.
SNUGGLY - denim, as new, NIS 100; halogen ceiling light, NIS 30; stereo cabinet, NIS 120; 10 records, NIS 5 each. 02-717335, NS.
2-IN-1 STROLLER - good condition, NIS 200; car seat, NIS 50; high chair, NIS 30. 02-354464.
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Yael Dayan's calumny

NO calumny heaped on Israel is as obscene, immoral, and galling as a comparison between the Jewish state and Nazi Germany. It is the modern equivalent of the medieval charge that Jews use the blood of Christian children for ritual purposes, or the accusation that Jews caused the Black Plague by poisoning the wells.

The modern slander is probably a creation of the Soviet propaganda machine - Moscow routinely described those it considered its enemies as heirs to the Nazis - but it was promptly taken up by the PLO and the Arab regimes. There was an Orwellian irony in the fact that all these totalitarianisms, whose ideological kinship and practical collaboration with the Nazis are part of history, should brand Israel a Nazi-like state. But this has not made the defamation any less effective.

Not only have many respectable organizations parroted the charge; Israeli leftists, particularly intellectuals, have adopted it as a passport to world recognition and respectability. Interviewed in an American magazine, this year's Israel Prize winning writer A.B. Yehoshua once compared what he termed Israeli silence on the oppression of the Palestinians to the silence of the Germans during the Nazi era. The late Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz, the left's leading guru, habitually referred to a certain segment of Israelis as Judeo-Nazis. This promptly made him a widely quoted celebrity throughout the world.

The desire to curry favor with the gentle

world is not a new phenomenon in Jewish life. Through many centuries of exile it was an integral part of the Jews' survival technique. But it is a humiliating trait which independent life in a sovereign Israel was supposed to eradicate. Unfortunately, such a transformation has yet to occur.

Earlier this week MK Yael Dayan (Labor) provided proof that even Israeli-born Jews have not completely rid themselves of this compulsion. Speaking to a German audience in Bonn, she said that the obligation Israel has to the Palestinians is comparable to the debt Germany owes Israel. Though Dayan denies that she meant to compare Israel to the Nazis, the inference of her statement is unmistakable.

Nor is there any doubt that such statements are designed to ingratiate the speaker with her audience. Nothing assuages German guilt more readily than an Israeli confirmation that Nazi crimes were no worse than what the Jews are doing to the Palestinians.

Likud MK Assad Assad, Dayan's co-participant in the mission to Germany who reported on her remarks yesterday, has commented on the absurdity of the situation: he, a Druse, seemed more concerned about the desecration of the Holocaust than Dayan. But his incensed reaction is typical of what every sane, decent human being must feel. The sycophancy, abasement, and self-degradation of this exercise in moral equivalence are not only a repugnant insult to the truth, they are an embarrassment and an affront to all Israelis.

The Saigon feeling

THE use of white phosphorous shells against the long-suffering civilians of Sarajevo, which the United Nations reported yesterday, is only the latest callous step in the escalation of the Bosnian war by combatants whose disregard for the conventions of civilized behavior has become an international scandal.

The Geneva Convention specifically bans the use of phosphorous - used by NATO countries as a smoke marker. The billowing white smoke obvious from television footage consists of the phosphorous particles which hang in the air and cause severe burns in contact with skin. The injuries caused by direct impact on victims are among the most horrendous imaginable. Cyriacs may argue that the addition of one more war crime to the catalogue in the former Yugoslavia's conflicts is of little consequence, especially as the world community is quite prepared to recoil in horror and do nothing to end the war.

No matter who wins or loses in Bosnia, the most humiliating defeat of all has been delivered to the United Nations - a grim present for the organization's 50th birthday this year. No doubt officials will trot out a list of fine achievements for the occasion, but the skeleton of death from Bosnia will lurk in the corner of every official reception. If Sarajevo is what the UN calls a protected "safe area," may heaven preserve the world from an unsafe one.

The tragedy is that in a brief burst of success, Sarajevo did become a safe area. Only last year

the UN firmly policed the installation of the 20 km exclusion zone around the city and delivered a painful NATO air strike to recalcitrant Serb gunners who breached it. Unfortunately, that is where the whole house of cards began to quiver. Former president Jimmy Carter's hasty meddling in an issue which he barely understood set a time bomb under the international effort. The clumsy mistake of not including the Croatian Serbs adjoining the northwestern Bihać safe area allowed the war to continue there, while in the rest of Bosnia, the cease-fire quickly became a rest and regroup exercise.

If it wasn't so tragic, the Bosnian fiasco would be material for a theater farce - albeit a somewhat farfetched one. After all, how could a gaggle of Balkan militias make fools of all the major powers on earth and destroy the credibility of NATO, which had stood like a colossus against the Soviet bloc for 40 years?

As the white phosphorous smoke billowed over Sarajevo yesterday, the city began to acquire that Saigon feeling. The 24,000 UN peacekeepers in Bosnia may yet have their equivalent of the helicopter scramble from the rooftops as they abandon the Bosnians to their fate. In the end, it is going to be a long time indeed before the United States, Europe, Russia, the UN, or NATO dare raise their voices to lecture lesser lands on right and wrong. There will be no easy recovery from this humiliating debacle in international peacekeeping.



LEG 95

Swedish insensitivity

HOW did a naive, inexperienced Swedish deputy premier become involved in the battle for Jerusalem, a battle which is currently front-page news and a leading TV item worldwide?

Mona Sahlin came here last week to attend a ceremony honoring the memory of the Swedish count, Folke Bernadotte, rescuer of Jews from Nazi death camps 50 years ago. She aroused the prime minister's ire by insisting on meeting with PLO leaders in Orient House, boosting Yasser Arafat's claim that Jerusalem is the capital of the future Palestinian state.

Rabin's latest surrender to Arab threats and ambitions over freezing the appropriation of land in Jerusalem was far more damaging than Sahlin's visit. But the Swedish politician reopened an old, still painful, wound. Count Bernadotte was shot dead by the Jewish underground Lehi movement in Jerusalem on September 17, 1948.

Who exactly was this man who so provoked the wrath of underground fighters that they were prepared to run the gamut of worldwide condemnation and gun him down in cold blood?

The aristocratic nephew of King Gustav of Sweden was in Israel as a mediator in the Arab-Israeli war when the newborn state was fighting for its very life. Had he succeeded, he would undoubtedly have earned the Nobel Peace Prize.

On July 5, 1948, Jon Kimche, one of the UK's most celebrated correspondents, lambasted Bernadotte in *Ha'aretz* for a "fatal blunder" in his bid to solve the problem of Jerusalem. Ignoring his brief to follow the UN partition plan - already outdated by the failed attempts by Israel's neighbors to crush the Jewish state - Bernadotte produced his own "peace plan."

He demanded that Jerusalem be internationalized and placed under Arab control. As a concession to the besieged Jewish community, he tossed it the bone of "municipal autonomy." Never mind that the Jews had been shedding their blood, defending their homes in a bitter and cruel siege.

In short, Jerusalem, the focus of Jewish prayers and dreams, would go to the Arabs. Little wonder that this "peace plan" produced anger and despair in every Jewish heart everywhere.

The blue-blooded Swede was also ready to give all of the Negev (Jewish, according to the UN) to Arab invaders. Not a grain of sand would be the Jews'. As a sop, he offered Ben-Gurion western Galilee.

THREE YEARS earlier, the count had made his first attempt to become an international mediator when he opened talks with Gestapo chief and Holocaust mastermind Heinrich Himmler.

The war was nearing its end. The Allies were racing across Europe to reach Berlin and bring about final victory. London thought the count's mediation might be worthwhile, even if it shortened the war only by a few days.

What master stroke did Bernadotte produce? It was one to match the gift of Jerusalem to the Arabs. Churchill must meet with Himmler (who agreed to the deal). The British prime minister, who had fought so valiantly to bring the Nazis to their knees, would then appoint the SS mass murderer as the future leader of a "new" peace-loving Germany.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

Almost as an afterthought added the count, Mr. Adolf Hitler would have to retire.

In the name of strict neutrality, the count was "equating Churchill with Himmler," said Jon Kimche in his front page *Ha'aretz* report.

No doubt Churchill would have been asked to shake hands with one of the greatest butchers of all time at 10 Downing Street before the world's cameras. Never mind the sensitivities of the Russians, who had 20 million dead in the war. And never mind the souls of six million dead Jewish men, women and children.

To add insult to injury, Bernadotte would also have cut the Jews' spiritual lifeline by handing over Jerusalem to the Arabs.

Other Israeli papers revealed at the time that the Swede also wanted to "internationalize" Jaffa. He demanded that "six war-

against Bernadotte. Perhaps its chief anticipated that an Arab-controlled Jerusalem would become *Judenrein*, as was the Jordanian-controlled Old City until 1967.

In the last months of World War II, Bernadotte had made a deal with the Nazis, via the Swedish Red Cross, to free 400 Danish Jews from Theresienstadt. They were included with 7,000 non-Jews freed at that time. According to the *Encyclopedia Judaica*, he also saved "several thousand Jewish women from Ravensbrück."

Did Lehi take this into account? Did the future of Jerusalem weigh more heavily? We do not know.

Surely the issue must be left to a higher judge than us mortals. Foreign Minister Peres disagrees. He is apologetic over Bernadotte's assassination.

Jon Kimche wrote: "The count regards a peace treaty as counterbalancing all else. He showed his total incompetence to appreciate the depth of feeling of the Allies who were determined to achieve Germany's total surrender [then only weeks away]. Although the British and US wanted Jerusalem to be internationalized, they were both opposed to it falling under Arab control."

We are informed that Mona Sahlin, strongly attacked by a past Swedish foreign minister for her actions in Israel, will soon return to Jerusalem. She intends to meet Faisal Hussein at Orient House, where he recently threatened to restart the intifada all over the Middle East.

Sahlin is following in the footsteps of her compatriot, waving the same Swedish flag of "neutrality."

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

A naive deputy premier is following in the footsteps of her compatriot Count Bernadotte

ships patrol the Israeli coast" to prevent the arrival of Holocaust survivors and arms. A hundred thousand Arab refugees were to be allowed to return.

In his diaries, David Ben-Gurion revealed how his headquarters had been shot up and bombed 24 hours after Bernadotte visited him. The implication was clear: Someone in the Swedish entourage had revealed the site of his secret office to the Arabs.

There can be no justification for the Lehi terrorist attack

Two faces

NORMAN LEAR
DAVID RAMAGE

A May 1 article about Ralph Reed's reinvention of the Christian Coalition gave *Los Angeles Times* readers just a glimpse of the hutzpa that Reed and his boss Pat Robertson are displaying in their carefully orchestrated outreach to American Jews and their public-relations makeover of the Christian Coalition.

Ralph Reed has undertaken a strategic campaign to put a benign, nonthreatening facade on the Christian Coalition's well-documented agenda.

But all the PR in the world - and Reed is good at it - cannot change the facts. Reed may be the public face, promoting inclusion and tolerance, but Robertson is still the president of the organization, and it's he who raises the money and fires up the troops.

We have no way of knowing what lies in Robertson's heart. We do know that his prodigious pronouncements - and the Christian Coalition's track record - on the issues of religious pluralism, separation of church and state and civility in public discourse are sufficiently disturbing to Americans to be concerned about the organization's political goals.

Reed told a reporter, "I'm trying to create a culture of civility between the different faiths' traditions... so that even as we disagree, we need not be disagreeable."

But just over a month ago on TV, Robertson said of Hinduism, "We can't let this kind of thing come into America." And when he was running for president, he set out an explicit religious test for public office, saying repeatedly that he would not consider appointing Hindus or Moslems to his cabinet.

Separation of church and state is a vital concern to Jews - a minority in almost every community in

Christian Coalition: make-over or cover-up?

America. Yet Pat Robertson has equated defense of church-state separation, especially by Jews, with an attack on Christianity.

His 1990 book, *The New Millennium*, claims that "liberal Jews" are engaged in efforts to "destroy the Christian position in the world." In 1993, Robertson mocked concerns about Jewish children having to say prayers in Jesus' name.

And although he says that he embraced no conspiracy theories in his 1991 book *The New World Order*, his "historical analysis" has been exposed as the reshaping of old antisemitic tracts. Robertson proposes that, in a plan for world domination, "European bankers" (elsewhere in the book identified as Jews allied with Freemasons) hired John Wilkes Booth to assassinate Abraham Lincoln.

"YOU'RE SUPPOSED to be nice to the Episcopalians and the Presbyterians and the Methodists and this, that and the other thing," he told viewers in 1991.

"Nonsense. I don't have to be nice to the spirit of anti-Christ." Just a few months earlier, when a Moslem clergyman was invited to give the daily prayer in Congress, Robertson speculated that the door would now be open to "all kinds of weirdness."

Robertson's demonstrated religious intolerance makes the Christian Coalition's position on separation of church and state all the more troubling. Both Reed and Robertson have recently taken pains to reject the notion of America as a Christian nation. Yet they tell their supporters something different.

As far back as 1981, Robertson said that the Constitution "is a marvelous document for self-government by Christian people, but the minute you turn the document into the hands of non-Christians and atheist people, they can use it to destroy the very foundation of our society."

More recently, Christian Coalition chapters have echoed Robertson's claim that separation of church and state is a creation of the Soviet Constitution, and that it was imported to the US by communist sympathizers.

Norman Lear is founder and the Rev. Ramage chairman of *People for the American Way*, a nonpartisan constitutional liberties organization. (Los Angeles Times)

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



The biggest problem this bride had was finding a church big enough - not for her guest list, but for her wedding dress. Maria Rosaria Lembo's dress weighed 218 kg (480 pounds) and fanned out 13 meters (39 feet) with lace and bows. The spectacle was denounced by the bishop of Caserta, Italy, where the happy occasion took place, as "a disgusting display." He called the event a "scandalous thing" that created "class division" in the church. Obviously, he had not been invited. (AP)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MK LIVNAT'S STATEMENT

Sir, - I must agree with MK Limor Livnat's statement in the Knesset, as reported by Liat Collins on May 10, that "this is a Jewish State. It is not a state for Armenians, blacks, gypsies or even homosexuals. Anybody who doesn't like it can leave."

This is a Jewish country, run by the Jewish people. We cannot forget our Jewish ancestry or traditions. To do so would not only mean the end of Israel as a Jewish country, but the end of the Jewish people as a nation.

JUDY PUSTILNIK
Sir, - MK Livnat's declaration that "this is a Jewish state. It is not a state for Armenians, blacks, etc." sounds non-Jewish to me. Aren't we - isn't she - obliged to be considerate to strangers, because we/she were once strangers ourselves in Egypt, Poland, Germany and other countries? And isn't she and all who blame the Kedma School for lighting that extra torch saying OK to people who were indifferent to our plight during World War II?

I feel truly distressed.
EVA TOREN
Tel Aviv.

PARENTING

Sir, - I run a support group for parents who have children with learning disabilities. We have been going for almost two years now and have monthly meetings with speakers if possible.

I always read your articles on parenting and I cut them out for our members who may not have seen *The Jerusalem Post*. They are always so interesting and extremely beneficial to our group.

RUTH RECHTSCHAFFEN
Rehovot.

CAMPAIGN RHETORIC

Sir, - In three disastrous years the Labor Party led by Yitzhak Rabin has done little right. The government's asinine reaction to Bob Dole's "initiative" to move the US Embassy to Jerusalem, therefore, comes as no surprise.

Having served as ambassador here, Rabin believes himself to be an expert on American politics. If he is, he would understand that Dole, like Phil Gramm and just about every candidate for the presidency, promises to move the embassy in an effort to gain Jewish money and votes. Bill Clinton, for example, sounded very much like a Likudnik during his campaign, but now, unlike King Hussein, refuses to meet with Benjamin Netanyahu. As a result, few of us take campaign rhetoric seriously; most of us are offended by these insults to our intelligence. Dole seems to be especially lacking in sincerity; his hostility toward Israel as a senator makes George Bush look like a Zionist. (Bush, by the way, also promised to move the embassy.)

Perhaps Rabin is not an expert on US politics, but he surely understands the art of election-year pandering. Indeed, his broken promises to the residents of the Golan rank among the all-time greats.

Instead of hysterically lobbying Dole to refrain from promising to move the embassy, Rabin should have simply ignored the issue and stuck to lobbying for aid to the PLO. Rabin can rest assured that if Dole is elected, he will not, heaven forbid, move the embassy to Israel's capital, even if Labor is then in opposition. All Rabin has accomplished is to place the issue of Jerusalem onto op-ed pages all over the world.

granting yet another victory to his accomplices in the PLO.
JOSEPH SCHICK
Brooklyn, NY.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Sir, - The remark by Deputy Attorney-General Nahum Raskover that "we cannot develop a high level of love for animals until we reach an appropriate level of love for all human beings," displays ignorance about the traditional view in Judaism that compassion for animals is the characteristic of those who have compassion for human beings, and that compassion for animals is instrumental in encouraging compassion for humans. Raskover has forgotten that Moses was chosen to lead the Jewish people because he showed compassion for a lamb, and that Rebecca was chosen to be Isaac's wife because she responded to Eliezer's request for water, "Drink and I will also water your animal."

Perhaps Israel would develop better leaders if they were trained to be compassionate to animals.
ROBERTA KALECHOFKY,
Jews for Animal Rights
Marblehead, Mass.

TV COMMERCIALS

Sir, - As a (religious) mother bringing up my children in Israel, I am appalled by the provocativeness of the commercials we see on Israel television. It is embarrassing to sit with friends and family in front of the TV and especially unpleasant with my youngest son, who is forever asking questions.

JUDY HALPERIN
Mevaseret Zion.

هكذا من الاصل

Out-on-the-town daughter sets parents at odds

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I consider myself to be of the "old generation."

My 16-year-old daughter sometimes stays out with girlfriends until 4 a.m. Though not pleased, I surrender to "modern" times. She is a serious and good girl, and I have no real reason to reproach her.

Recently, however, she went to a birthday party on a Friday night, returning only the following afternoon. The telephone at the house where the party was held was out of order, and I did not have the address. I was so worried that I did not sleep all night.

When I complained to my wife about this, she shouted at me and said it would be my fault if our daughter leaves home as soon as she completes her military service. Having this kind of support from her mother, my daughter says that she will do whatever she likes whenever she likes. Aside from this, my relations with her are very good.

My real problem is my wife. If I go against her, it could lead to divorce. Should I just give in, or should I fight for what I believe in?

Francie Father
Jerusalem

Dear FF,
Your daughter's insistence on doing whatever she likes is consistent with her age. However, as the parent of a minor, you have every right to demand to be informed of her whereabouts, as well as to place limits.

Your wife's reaction is another matter. Her inability to see your side of the issue indicates that something deeper is at work. Her vehemence may indicate that she identifies with her daughter. Perhaps she remembers her father's

strictness; or maybe she feels her freedom is limited as a wife. After all, you describe yourself as "old generation." In any case, you might consider some kind of family counseling.

Do not despair, however. Yours is a problem experienced by even the most "up-to-date" parents of adolescents.

Dear Ruthie,
A neighbor in my building often parks one of his cars in my spot. I have complained to him on several occasions about this.

Then, one night, someone slashed his tires. He assumed I did it. I swore to him that I would never do such a thing. I even expressed my sympathy.

Now he parks there even more frequently, out of spite. What can I do to convince him and to get him to stop trespassing?

Ousted Out of a Spot
Haifa

Dear Ousted,
If your parking space is legally "attached" to your apartment in the deed or in the articles (takanon) of your building, you can file a suit with the Inspector of Land Registration (mefake'ah batim meshulafim) in your area. If not, raise the issue in a tenants' meeting (asefat dayarim).

But your best bet - given the nature of certain unreasonably stubborn neighbors - would be to try to organize a reconciliation with the person in question.

Even if you achieved a legal victory, you would still have to face your rival at the mailbox or the garbage bin.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Oh no, a Jackie O book without Jackie

BOOKS

ROBERT PLUNKET

JACKIE UNDER MY SKIN: Interpreting an Icon by Wayne Koestenbaum. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 285 pp. \$21.

WAYNE Koestenbaum's explanation of the Jackie O phenomenon, *Jackie Under My Skin: Interpreting an Icon*, is as fresh and thought provoking as they come. But you must accept the premise that the pathetic obsessions of fans, the endless adoration and the quest for even more photos, stories and ephemera are worthy subjects of contemplation. I sure do.

Koestenbaum is the man who wrote *The Queen's Throat*, a study of the "opera queen" - one of the major archetypes of the gay world.

There isn't a chapter about Jackie and homosexuals in Koestenbaum's new book - although perhaps there should have been - but it's about the only subject he skips.

Koestenbaum discusses getting in touch with your "inner Jackie," and Jackie as "Durga, Goddess of Power." His technique is not humor, nor satire, but rather the most painstaking and subtle intellectual analysis.

The key here is the subtitle: *Interpreting an Icon*. That's exactly what he does, in the language and tone of a very bright college professor who doesn't care what the rest of the faculty thinks.

Be forewarned that there is nothing about the "real Jackie" in this book. Koestenbaum is concerned instead with icon Jackie or mythical Jackie.

If I understand him correctly, she became "sublime" (used here in the philosophical, Edmund Burkean sense of an object so powerful that it produces astonishment) when her husband was murdered at her side.

At that moment, probably the most dramatic of the century, the American people's identification with her was so intense that she metaphorically entered every pore of our collective body and



Jackie's virtual silence after JFK's assassination assured her elevation to icon-hood. (Unipix)

was forever after "under our skin."

Her virtual silence from then on, which we both admired and resented, assured her elevation to icon-hood. She became a shim-

mering surface onto which we could, and did, project anything.

SHE WAS both a saint and public sinner, the ideal mother and the hateful stepmother, a greedy

bitch and a patroness of the arts, a great beauty and finally a dying cancer victim. Like the O.J. Simpson trial, she contains everything. Koestenbaum has obviously

spent years dreaming up this book, and on many levels it is as much a very funny portrait of the mad obsession of the fan as it is about Jackie.

This makes for some strange observations, oddball sounding at first, though on reflection they contain a great deal of truth. Of her large face and hairdo he notes, "It's easier to lose yourself while adoring a wide head."

About the death of her first husband: "A living woman next to a dead man (a Pietà) is a uniquely satisfying, if horrifying image to contemplate, because the two have been brought to an even level: The man cannot rule now, cannot move mountains, cannot cure lepers. It is the woman's turn to be heroic, to incite worship, and to rule."

On the way she validates shopping: "Jackie has turned places of commerce into shrines. Stores (Bloomingdale's for example) are now places where Jackie once experienced desire..."

To this day, Jackie blesses purchases: "Just keep on with your shopping," her image seems to whisper. "I wish there had been more about Jackie and shopping. After all, among her many other accomplishments, she experienced every shopper's dream come true - marriage to a Greek shipping tycoon."

But then, I wish there had been more about everything. So taken was I with this odd book, so completely drawn into Koestenbaum's camp, so to speak, that I actually made a pilgrimage - there is no other word - to the San Ysidro Ranch in Montecito, the bucolic hideaway resort in Montecito, California, where Jackie and JFK spent their honeymoon.

After some covert research and sneaking around, I managed to find the bungalow they occupied. I guess I could have peeked through the windows, but just to stand there and look at the bungalow was enough. In fact, it was too much.

The thoughts and images it conjured up were just too overwhelming and I had to turn away, panting heavily, overcome by the immense power of the 20th century's greatest icon. (Los Angeles Times)

Fragile favorites come out for a quick fix

FIX IT YOURSELF
TAL KATZ

ON Mother's Day, you were so inundated by bouquets that your vase took a tumble. You banished it - broken fragments carefully placed inside - to the back of the cupboard, next to the other chipped china and punished porcelain you intend to mend ... someday.

There, in that limbo where fragile favorites remain, is a dish holding several mug handles. You've gotten used to drinking your coffee without them. But there was no reason to. With a little effort, you can "put Humpty-Dumpty together again." All you need to know is which glue to use on which items.

MATERIALS REQUIRED
Epoxy cement (epoxy) in sets of two tubes, one base (basist) and the other hardener (makshet), NIS 5 to NIS 10; and/or one tube of instant adhesive (super-glue), NIS 5 to NIS 10; super-glue remover (mesir super-glue ve'epoxy), optional, about NIS 7; sand to fill a large bowl or small basin; toothpicks (kismei shnayim).

Epoxy is required when the material to be glued is porous. Instant adhesives (commonly referred to by the brand name Crazy Glue) are less viscous than others and thus are best suited to less porous material. Pottery (heres) and ceramics (keramika) are porous.

Porcelain (harsina, more commonly known as portzelan) is similar to glass in that it is almost nonporous.

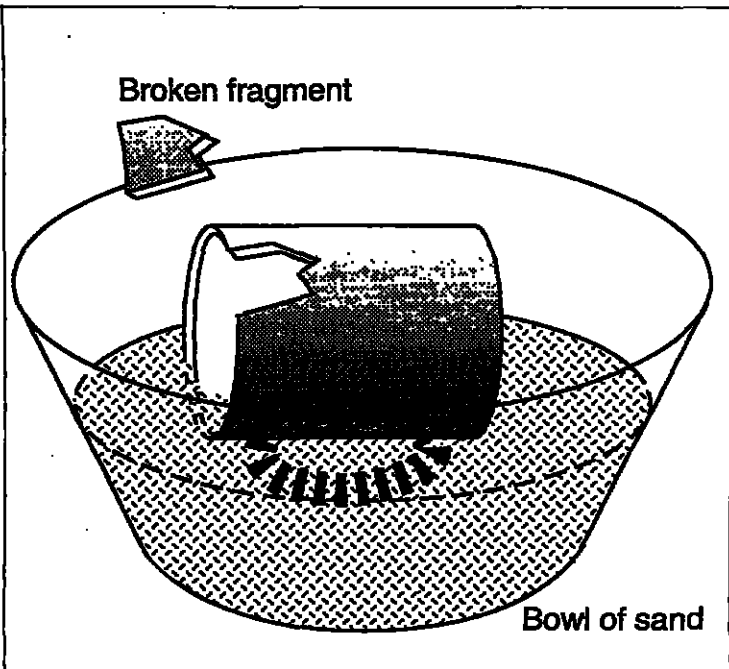
Pottery is made of clay and can be glazed or not. Ceramic ware is made of a fine clay-like substance called kaolin or china clay, and is always glazed. The way to tell them apart is by their color. A pottery fragment is brown in the center, while china is white.

Though both should be repaired with epoxy, some instant adhesives claim to work on all ceramics; read all labels before purchasing.

Porcelain is a fine-grained translucent type of ceramic. Baked at much higher temperatures than other pottery, it resembles glass in texture.

DIRECTIONS

For repairing pottery and ceramic ware with epoxy: Make sure all surfaces to be glued are clean and dry. Depending on the size of the item you are repairing, fill a large bowl or basin with sand, so that the largest piece of the broken item (which we'll call



the "body") can be lodged in the sand, with the broken edge protruding. This ensures that the object will stay steady during the repair and drying.

Prepare the epoxy according to instructions on the label. If more than one fragment needs to be glued onto the same item, prepare a very small amount each time because you may have to wait a couple of hours before gluing the second piece.

Remember, it is very difficult to repair a broken item when there are more than four fragments in addition to the body. Even if you're a whiz at jigsaw puzzles, the item may well end up looking shabby.

Before applying glue to repair each piece, do a "dress rehearsal" with it. Let your fingers feel where they fit. This way, you will be less likely to fumble around and make a mistake when you do it for real.

With a toothpick, spread a thin coat of the epoxy onto the edges of both the fragment and the base; it is not sufficient to apply glue to only one of the surfaces. If there is more than one fragment to be attached, note during the "dress rehearsal" which parts of a given fragment will be glued first, and then apply glue only to those parts.

Otherwise, when it comes time to add another fragment to the

"puzzle," it may not fit because of excess dried glue. Also, plan the order of repair. Sometimes, it is better to glue two fragments together before gluing them to the base, depending on the shape of the fragments and the item.

Repeat for each fragment. Allow for maximum drying time, stated on the label, between adhesions. When dry, remove the item from the sand.

For repairing porcelain or glass with instant adhesive: Since doing repairs with this kind of glue is so quick, don't bother with the miniature sandbox. Just take greater care with the "dress rehearsal."

Tubes of this adhesive have a long-nosed applicator at the tip, so toothpicks are unnecessary. But, since you will be holding the fragments together with your hands, be extra careful. The glue can make your fingers stick to the porcelain or to each other. Read the label carefully before application, and have a tube of super-glue remover handy.

Here, too, all surfaces to be glued should be clean and dry. Put a thin layer of glue on both surfaces for best results.

Excess instant glue or epoxy should be removed from the repaired item by scraping with a razor blade or utility knife after it is completely dry.

Glued items can be placed only in the top dishwasher rack, if at all, but avoid putting them in a microwave or regular oven.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

India tries to kill a tradition that results in dowry deaths

LIFE-STYLE

HARBAKSH S. NANDA

TO fight a tradition that has become a hardship for India's women, one state recently held a mass wedding for 315 couples that spared the brides from paying dowries.

As bands played popular film music in a sports stadium, the couples gathered in groups of Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians and held hands as their religious leaders married them.

The newlyweds then enjoyed a feast with their families without having to worry they would one day end up fighting over the amount of money and gifts provided in a dowry.

With the help of the Haryana state government and the local chapter of the Indian Red Cross, the 315 families - most of them poor - had arranged the marriages only three weeks previously.

Thanks to the sponsors, the parents of the bride chose a groom and met with his family without having to worry if they had enough money for the dowry, wedding ceremony and honeymoon.

Ancient traditions, especially among the Hindu majority, have long made India a male-dominated country where most parents prefer to have boys instead of girls.

That prejudice was made even stronger by dowries, which often cost families their life savings and forced them into debt. To avoid having too many girls, some women secretly kill their female

infants or abort female fetuses.

Even families of grooms who receive the dowry they requested sometimes end up demanding more money and gifts after the marriage, and that leads some in-laws to murder the bride.

Newspapers routinely report dowry deaths, often disguised as a "cooking accident" in which the woman is doused with kerosene and set afire because the dowry paid by her parents did not include a color television, motor scooter or enough jewelry.

According to government figures, as many as 6,000 women are killed or commit suicide every year in India in disputes over dowries. Many other cases are never even discovered by police.

But those grim statistics didn't have any effect on the atmosphere at the ceremony in Ambala, a town 200 km. north of New Delhi.

Bhajan Lal, the Haryana chief minister, blessed the newlyweds and gave them gifts of kitchenware and clothes.

Lal said the ceremony was aimed at making families realize that daughters don't need to be a burden and dowries aren't required.

Even without dowries, many families feel compelled to pay for their daughters' wedding ceremonies and even honeymoons, Lal

said, so he encouraged them to invest in state-bank savings accounts.

"If a girl child is born, you deposit 500 rupees [\$16] with the state government. It will give back 25,000 rupees [\$800] when the girl reaches the age of 21," he said.

In the last few years, the public outcry over bride burning, along with the emergence of more feminist groups in India, have prompted some states to begin discouraging the dowry tradition.

The neighboring state of Punjab organized an inexpensive, anti-dowry mass wedding of 121 couples in February.

In New Delhi alone, more than 125 shelters and homes for abused women have opened in recent years, and they often provide shelter for women involved in violent dowry disputes.

A growing number of women's organizations also are trying to educate women about their legal rights, and working with police and courts in the cases of dowry victims. (Associated Press)

DRIVE
CAREFULLY

YOUR WEEK
JUST GOT

BRIGHTER

See Back Page

BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, MAY 25, 1995

Unlinked shekel loans up due to rate reduction

PUBLIC borrowing of unlinked shekels rose 4.1 percent last month, as a result of the 1.2 percentage point reduction in interest rates.

The Bank of Israel announced yesterday that unlinked shekel loans increased to NIS 57.4 billion, from NIS 55.15b. in March. Average interest rates on credit to the public dropped by approximately 1.5% to 20.34%, from 21.81% in March, in reaction to the central bank's rate cut. Similarly, the interest commercial banks charge on overdrafts

JOSE ROSENFELD

fell 1.46% to 22.43%, from 23.89% in March. Fixed-term interest rates on credit decreased as well to 18.64%, from 20.12%.

Interest on deposits fell more moderately to 12.65, from 13.8% in March. Short-term deposits fell to 14.47%, from 15.71%.

The banks' profit margin from transactions with the public fell to 7.69%, from 8.01%. Similarly, their financial margin for all transactions fell to 6.37%, from 6.45%. The Bank of Israel also reported

that average interest rates on commercial bank unlinked shekel loans soared 41.9% - to 22.8% - in March compared with the same period last year.

Based on those rates, non-banking institutions - better known as the "grey market" - can legally charge up to 51.3% for unlinked shekel loans.

Under the law, which limits the maximum interest rate non-banking institutions can charge, the "grey market" is allowed to charge 2.25 times the average bank rate.

Insurance firms at risk if losses continue

Migdal profits up to NIS 18.2m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CONTINUED high losses in the car insurance sector will put several insurance companies at risk, Uzi Levi, managing director of Migdal and chairman of the Insurance Companies Association, said yesterday.

Migdal Insurance, a member of the Africa Israel Group, completed the first quarter of 1995 with a net profit of NIS 18.2 million from a net profit of NIS 8.5m. in the corresponding period last year.

Levi attributed the rise to Migdal's financial investments, gen-

eral non-life insurance activities and life insurance activities. He said the car insurance field continued to suffer losses, mainly because of companies' inability to adjust prices in accordance with competition and other market conditions.

Migdal's profits from general non-life insurance turned around to NIS 1m. from a net loss of

NIS 11.4m. Levi said the turnaround reflects Migdal's profits from investments, adding that the insurance activities continued to register a loss.

Migdal's made a profit from capital market investments of NIS 236,000 compared with a net loss of NIS 34,400. In the first three months of last year. Other key factors which contributed to

earnings included profits from life insurance activities, which grew to NIS 44m. from NIS 38.5m.

In the reported period, total premiums increased to NIS 922m. from NIS 826m., of which NIS 482m. were from life insurance activities and the remainder from general insurance.

Chal Insurance completed the first quarter with a net loss of NIS 15.4m., compared with a net profit of NIS 1.8m. in the corresponding period of 1994.

US durable goods orders drop 4%

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Orders for durable goods fell a steep 4 percent last month - the biggest drop in more than three years, the US government said yesterday, reflecting an economy that is weakening but not necessarily headed for recession.

Factory orders for items such as cars and refrigerators meant to last at least three years declined for the third straight month in April to a seasonally adjusted \$156.54 billion, the Commerce Department said.

The decline, which was broad-based and much deeper than economists had expected, followed decreases of 0.2% in March and 0.7% in February. It was the biggest drop since December 1991, when orders fell 5.4%.

Despite the latest sign of weakness in the industrial sector, economists said the odds were still against the economy falling into a recession instead of the "soft landing" sought by the Federal Reserve, the nation's central bank.

"I don't think we'll have a recession," said economist David Wyss of DRI/McGraw-Hill in Lexington, Mass. "Certainly, this increases the worries that the landing will turn hard. But, so far the evidence is still in favor of a soft landing."

The report sent bond prices soaring and helped lift stocks as well, as traders became convinced the Fed's next move would be to lower interest rates. The Fed raised rates most of last year in a bid to slow economic growth and ward off inflation.

"Although we do not expect a near-term Fed rate cut, these data support the view that the next move in policy will likely be toward an easier policy stance," said economist Marilyn Schaja of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette.

Economist Mickey Levy of NationsBank Capital Markets said the Fed could start easing credit by late summer.

"I'm still expecting a soft landing but it's going to take several easings by the Fed," said Levy. The Fed raised short-term rates seven times in the year through February but has since left rates steady, including at a meeting of Fed policy-makers Tuesday.

Hit particularly hard by the higher rates were manufacturers, whose output has fallen for three months in a row, the home-building industry and sales of big-ticket durable items like cars, machinery and home appliances.

Shipments of finished durable goods, a measure of more immediate demand, fell for the first time since October, declining 2.1% to \$158.26b. Unfilled orders for durable goods dropped 0.4% last month, the first drop since last August, to \$436.63b.

Economists blamed part of the drop in new orders on decisions by businesses to sell off some of their inventories, which have been rising for 12 months in a row.

Although orders fell in every major category, the biggest drop was for transportation equipment, such as cars and aircraft, which fell 9.3% to \$35.78b. Excluding transportation, where orders often swing widely, durables orders still fell 2.3%, the biggest drop in nearly four years.

Primary metal orders fell 1.8%, orders for electrical equipment fell 3.4%, and industrial machinery and equipment orders fell 4.2%.

Orders for defense goods plummeted 24.6% in April and non-defense capital orders, regarded as a measure of businesses' investment plans, fell 5.2%.

Ben-Yair raps Shohat for pay increase suspension

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair yesterday lashed out at Finance Minister Avraham Shohat for suspending wage increases for those whose salaries are linked to judges' salaries, saying Shohat had no right to ignore his opinion on the subject, given a month ago.

"You would do well to act according to my opinion, which obligates you as a government minister," he said in an angry letter to Shohat.

Ben-Yair seemed equally upset that Shohat, in conversations with the press, had attributed the existence of the linkage to collective agreements, rather than to a cabinet decision.

"I would thank you if from now on you would refrain from interpreting my words," he said. "It's my job to do that... Even if you negotiate with the heads of the defense establishment to lower their salaries... this does not justify your giving an incorrect interpretation of my words."

The dispute stems from a more than 50% wage increase approved for judges by the Knesset Finance Committee two months ago. The committee said it wanted the raise to go only to sitting judges, and not to those whose

salaries are linked to judges' salaries. However, Ben-Yair said this was illegal.

Ben-Yair is one of the 80-100 people who would be deprived of a raise by the committee's decision, together with several other Justice Ministry employees and the heads of the defense establishment. However, he said he decided to voluntarily forego the raise in any case, so that his ruling would not be interpreted as stemming from personal interests.

In a letter to Shohat a month ago, Ben-Yair explained that the linkage stemmed from a cabinet decision which has never been overturned, and which was enshrined in the state's agreements with these employees.

"The state does not have the right to change these agreements unilaterally," he wrote then. "If you want to change them, you must negotiate with the workers in question... Any deviation from this principle constitutes a serious blow to the rule of law... An enlightened nation cannot take such a stand."

The Finance Committee, he added, has no legal power to override agreements signed by the state with its employees.

In his follow-up letter to Shohat



Ben-Yair to Shohat: You'd do well to act according to my opinion. (Elihu Harari)

hat yesterday, Ben-Yair said he was "astonished" to read in the papers that Shohat had nevertheless chosen to suspend the wage increases for those whose salaries are linked to judges' pay.

In response, Shohat said that he "does not deal in interpretations of the attorney-general's opinions," and that he intends to follow Ben-Yair's ruling.

However, he said, the Treasury is now negotiating with the heads of the defense establishment to persuade them to waive the increase, so he suspended the raises until these negotiations have been completed.

Cellcom to repair phones soon

JUDY SIEGEL

CELLCOM will invite its customers to bring their cellular phones to be repaired at two locations starting next week.

Some 550 workers will be at the Yad Elihu stadium, from May 29, and the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, from June 2, to change the software of defective Cellcom phones.

The defect caused the communications network to get jammed with calls, leading the company to suspend sales, new subscriber registration, and air time charges until further notice.

The repair, which should take between 15 minutes and 30 minutes per phone, will be carried out between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. at each location.

Repairs will be conducted next month in other locations, including Jerusalem and Haifa.

The company has opened a special toll-free phone line for subscribers - 177-022-8599 - which will operate, starting today, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. on weekdays and between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Fridays.

Zim's first-quarter losses of \$1.5m due to fuel price hike

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

ZIM Israel Navigation Company reported first-quarter net losses of \$1.5 million compared with net gains of \$8.4m. in the same period last year. Revenues were \$340.2m., up from \$307.7m.

The drop was due to a 35 percent rise in fuel prices and a decline in the dollar-shekel exchange rate, which had a negative effect of \$12.7m., the company said.

Zim transported 206,000 containers during the first quarter compared with 172,700 in 1994.

Healthcare Technologies reported first-quarter net profits of \$153,000 compared with net losses of \$91,000 in the same period last year. Revenues were \$1.98m., up from \$1.79m. in 1994.

Dead Sea Bromine recorded first-quarter net profits of NIS 13m., up from NIS 4.04m. last year. Earnings per share were NIS 0.26, up from NIS 0.08 while revenues were NIS 282.2m., up from NIS 234.48m. in 1994.

The improvement was attributed to a rise in demand for bromine on the world market and increased activity in Japan and the Far East.

Packer Steel reported first-quarter net profits of NIS 5.54m., up from NIS 3m. in

1994. Earnings per share were NIS 6.30, up from NIS 3.13, and revenues were NIS 136.9m., up from NIS 95.6m.

Lodzia-Rotex had first-quarter net profits of NIS 967,000 compared with net losses of NIS 1.4m. in 1994. Revenues were NIS 17m., up from NIS 14.1m.

Sano-Bromo posted first-quarter net profits of NIS 3.62m., up from NIS 1.95m. in 1994. Earnings per share were NIS 0.29, up from NIS 0.16 while revenues were NIS 30.4m., down from NIS 31.15m. The rise in net profits was due to a decrease in losses in the company's portfolio compared with last year.

Macpell reported net losses of NIS 2.175m. compared with net losses of NIS 3.35m. in 1994. Revenues were NIS 64.43m., up from NIS 36.4m.

Alliance Tires had first-quarter net losses of NIS 8.45m. compared with net losses of NIS 94.27m., up from NIS 77.7m., due to an easing in the European recession. The net losses were due to a hike in the price of raw materials, a delay in raising prices, and a lawsuit filed against the company in January 1994.

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Flagship of Silver Arrow's drone series, the Hermes 450, will be shown at the Paris Air Show.

Silver Arrow to exhibit new drone

ALON PINKAS and RACHEL NEIMAN

SILVER Arrow Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Design and Production, owned jointly by Elbit and the Federdman Group, will display five pilotless planes, including the Hermes 450 drone and the more advanced Hermes 750 drone, at next month's Paris Air Show.

The Hermes 750 will be flown for the first time next January, while the 450, the series' flagship model, is already operational.

The Hermes 750 is a heavy Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) with a mission radius of 200 km. and an in-air endurance of over 30 hours. It weighs 750 kg. at takeoff and can carry 300 kg. of photography equipment or any other type of payload. Its altitude ceiling is 28,000 ft. and its opera-

tional altitude is between 3000-25,000 ft.

The Hermes 750 is entirely autonomous - not only is it pilotless, but also it does not require constant ground guidance.

The Hermes will be better equipped than older-model drones to perform non-military tasks, a feature which is likely to interest police forces and environmental agencies worldwide.

Elbit Defense Systems (EDS), in the meantime, will unveil at the air show the Tiger system for upgrading helicopters from transport to attack purposes, Elbit President Emmanuel Gil said yesterday.

He added the company is bidding for an Australian Army tender to upgrade L-52 planes.

Elbit's US-based subsidiary Elbit Fort Worth (EFW) recently was awarded a \$2.8m. US Defense Department development contract to supply central computers to the Bradley Armored Personnel Carrier (APC), Gil said.

During the first quarter, Elbit's net profits fell 63.8% percent. Gil, however, did not blame the dollar-shekel rate for the poorer results. "If we want to be a nation with an export economy, manufacturing should be made more profitable through tax incentives, increased R&D funding, or an international marketing program."

Provident funds group demands same conditions for all savers

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MANAGERS and representatives of company and sector provident funds called on the government to offer the same savings conditions for all funds during an

emergency meeting held to attack the Treasury's plan for pension reforms yesterday.

General manager of the Company and Sector Provident Fund Association David Rubinstein demanded equal conditions for all savers, claiming the government has cheated fund members

by not issuing funds with designated bonds and a government safety net.

Rubinstein said there are more than 150,000 company and sector provident fund members saving for their pensions.

The company and sector funds have accumulated savings of nearly NIS 15 billion, about a quarter of the Histadrut pension funds accumulated savings.

Rubinstein said the pension plan represents unfair competition that benefits new savers.

"Young savers that join a pen-

sion fund today are guaranteed a yield of 4.25 percent annually and a government safety net, while veteran provident fund savers, who have saved for more than 40 years, are forced to invest their savings through the capital market and are exposed to the capital market's volatility," he said.

Tefahot net earnings soar 44%

TEFAHOT Israel Mortgage Bank, a subsidiary of United Mizrahi Bank, completed the first quarter with a 44.2 percent growth in net earnings, netting NIS 34.6m., up from NIS 24m. in the corresponding period last year.

Tefahot's managing director, Uri Wurtzburger, attributed most of the rise to the difference between the index for the month and the known index, which led to a growth in earnings from financing operations. Excluding the influence of the index, the bank's profits increased 10.1%, to NIS 28.4m., from NIS 25.8m.

Earnings from financing operations before provisions for doubtful debts increased 26.9%, to NIS 74m. from NIS 58.3m. Provisions for doubtful debts more than doubled, to NIS 2.2m. from NIS 1m.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Class-action suit against banks bill passes reading: People would be able to file class-action suits against banks, according to a bill okayed by the Knesset in preliminary reading yesterday. Class-action suits can be filed against all firms except banks and insurance companies. The bill was submitted by Naomi Chazan (Meretz).

The supervisor of monopolies would be allowed to nix a deal because it concentrated too much of the economy in one pair of hands, according to a bill approved by the Knesset in preliminary reading yesterday. The bill, by Knesset Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor), is meant to prevent the problem of government companies being sold to local business magnates who already have sizable holdings.

'Housing prices down': Housing prices have stabilized and are even falling, according to Evergreen Capital Market's company survey of public firms in the construction sector. The company forecasts that demand for housing will drop this year.

The kibbutz movement yesterday called upon the Ministry of Finance and Israel Land's Development Authority to include a kibbutz representative on the steering committee that will handle land matters related to the kibbutz debt arrangement.

No Shabbat flights for El Al - Knesset: Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday insisted that El Al will not fly on Shabbat even after it is turned into a private company.

Kessar made his remarks following an interview this week with the new chairman of El Al's board, Yossi Ciechanover.

Bezek to give out dividends: Bezek's board of directors has decided to allocate a 19% (19 cents per share) dividend to shareholders, totaling NIS 137m. Together with a NIS 23m. interim dividend distributed in January, shareholders will have received 55% of 1994 net profits.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.5.95)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.250	5.250	5.500
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.825	4.875	5.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.000	3.000	3.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.125	2.250	2.625
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (24.5.95)

CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.4644	3.5203	3.5807	3.4887
U.S. dollar	3.0162	3.0849	3.1453	3.0770
German mark	2.0886	2.1203	2.16	2.1029
Pound sterling	4.7409	4.8174	4.85	4.7992
French franc	0.3983	0.3986	0.3986	0.3986
Japanese yen (100)	3.4549	3.5107	0.57	0.5709
Dutch guilder	1.8881	1.8882	1.88	1.8808
Swiss franc	2.5042	2.5407	2.54	2.5408
Swedish krona	0.4388	0.4132	0.42	0.4204
Norwegian krone	0.4683	0.4739	0.46	0.4608
Denmark krone	0.5338	0.5426	0.52	0.5208
Finnish mark	0.8828	0.8839	0.87	0.8707
Canadian dollar	2.5122	2.5477	0.71	0.7108
Australian dollar	2.1706	2.2057	0.73	0.7308
S. African rand	0.8151	0.8283	0.73	0.7308
Belgian franc (10)	1.0153	1.0317	0.98	0.9808
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9822	3.0171	0.98	0.9808
Italian lire (1000)	1.7700	1.7988	1.73	1.7308
Japanese yen	-	-	0.05	0.0508
European pound	-	-	0.48	0.4808
ECU	3.8444	3.9085	0.83	0.8308
Irish punt	4.8182	4.8921	4.73	4.7308
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3773	2.4159	2.33	2.3308

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

"A tax for you"
All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.
15 minutes and you're gone...
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

PRIME TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	
Date:	23.5.95
Purchase Price:	101.48
Redemption Price:	100.13

PRIME TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents	
Date:	23.5.95
Purchase Price:	137.46
Redemption Price:	135.56

Key Representative Rates		
	Change	
US dollar ... NIS 3.0370	+0.03%	
Sterling NIS 4.7692	-0.11%	
Mark NIS 2.1029	-0.31%	

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

	Last	Change
DJ Industrial	4420.25	+11.42
DJ Transport	1947.16	+1.41
DJ Utility	197.67	+0.38
DJ Composite	1448.96	+0.58
NASDAQ	2081.10	+0.59
NYSSE	154.26	+1.79
S&P 500	202.39	+0.41
S&P 500 Index	202.39	+0.41
S&P 500 Index	202.39	+0.41

NYSE stocks

Stock	Price	Change
Unchanged	773	1110
Volume	1110	1299
Volume down	1110	17124

Other stock market indexes

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3227.3	+35.5
DAX	1976.1	+10.8
Nikkei	15714.5	+103
Hong Kong	12514	+1.35

Israeli stocks in NY

NYSE / AMEX	Last	Change
Alcoa	54.25	+0.25
Alcoa	54.25	+0.25
Alcoa	54.25	+0.25

NYSE / AMEX

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Alcoa	54.25	+0.25
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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	100.50	+0.50
Bank Hapoalim	100.50	+0.50
Bank Mizrahi	100.50	+0.50

Property, Building & Agriculture

Name	Price	Change
Bank Leumi	100.50	+0.50
Bank Hapoalim	100.50	+0.50
Bank Mizrahi	100.50	+0.50

PARALLEL LIST

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England will run at Pumas

DURBAN (Reuters) - England will put the four Twickenham Five Nations decision behind it and open the ball out against Argentina in its first Rugby World Cup Pool B match on Saturday.

The World Cup kicks off today with hosts South Africa taking on holders Australia.

Manager Jack Rowell, asked yesterday if England would in the World Cup return to its creative, running game after the tight grand slam clincher against Scotland, said: "That's what we're looking forward to doing, opposition permitting."

"We have some very good running backs, (Will) Carling and (Jeremy) Guscott. It would be a crime not to use them."

"We were disappointed against Scotland. The Scots played well enough to keep us quiet. There were many offside. We got penalties for the offside, but the offside play spoiled our ambitions."

Rowell said Argentina's chief weakness was not being very creative. "They defend very well and

need breaking down by powerful opponents."

England, looking to counter Argentina's strong scrummaging, practiced hard on this department during its morning training session yesterday, with a view to ensuring they gained plenty of ball to launch attacks against the Pumas.

"We see Argentina as a dangerous team with a good scrum, driving maul, a good kicking game and a very good line-out drill," Rowell said, pointing out that the Pumas beat England in the second Test of its 1990 tour of Argentina.

However, the last time the two sides met in London two months later, England crushed the Pumas 51-0.

Argentina, when practicing its line-out drill, has looked dangerously close to giving away penalties. The lift given to one of their tallest men, locks Pedro Sporleder or German Llanes who are both 1.98 meters, at times appears to come seconds before he catches the ball.

Ajax wins 4th European Cup

VIENNA (Reuters) - Teenage substitute Patrick Kluijver scored with only five minutes remaining to crown Ajax Amsterdam as European champions for the first time in 22 years with a 1-0 win over holders AC Milan yesterday. It was their fourth European cup triumph.

The only goal of a largely disappointing European Cup final came with extra time looking inevitable as the youthful Ajax team could find no way past Milan's experienced defense.

But Kluijver, who came on for Finnish striker Jari Litmanen in the 69th minute, stabbed the ball past Milan goalkeeper Sebastiano Rossi after an intricate Ajax attack seemed to have broken down.

Veteran Frank Rijkaard, who scored the winning goal for Milan when it beat Benfica

here five years ago, seemed to have lost the chance of scoring against his former club to round off the move when the ball fell to Kluijver, who made no mistake from only eight meters out.

The victory guarantees Ajax a place in next season's Champions' League, and means that Milan, which has lost its Italian championship crown to Juventus, must play in the UEFA Cup next season.

Although the match never reached the sustained levels of excitement that the pedigree of the finalists suggested, it had moments of high drama and near misses at both ends.

But too much of the play was restricted to an overcrowded midfield area, with the majority of both teams' attacking moves petering out without seriously threatening either goalkeeper.

Ajax's victory was especially poignant for Rijkaard, who became only the fifth man in the 40-year history of the competition to win the Cup with two different teams and the first to win against a former club.

It was also the last match of his dazzling 15-year career but he proved with his distribution and vision in midfield that, even at the age of 32, he has the powers to compete at the top level for some time yet.

Milan suffered a blow before the game started when its influential Montenegrin striker Dejan Savicevic, who scored twice in their 4-0 win over Barcelona in last year's final, was declared unfit to play because of a thigh injury.

The triumph was Ajax's fourth in the Champions' Cup following its last-trick of successes between 1971 and 1973.

Shaq lifts Magic

Orlando takes 1-0 lead over Pacers

ORLANDO (AP) - Shaquille O'Neal finally had a playoff game as big as most of his regular-season games.

He hit a career playoff high with 32 points Tuesday night to help the Magic open the Eastern Conference finals with a 105-101 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

In the Western Conference finals, Houston played at San Antonio last night. Houston holds a 1-0 edge.

O'Neal didn't score a point in the first quarter, but immediately made up lost ground, scoring 12 in each of the next two periods. He hit 11-of-16 shots, had 11 rebounds and went 10-of-12 from the foul line.

Indiana center Rik Smits, who averaged more than 22 points against New York in the conference semifinals, was no match for O'Neal and got into foul trouble early in the third quarter. Smits finished with 17 points, including a 3-pointer - his first of the season - with 46.1 seconds left that cut Orlando's lead to 103-98.

Indiana had a chance to pull closer, but Derrick McKey turned the ball over with about 14 seconds left, and Indiana was forced to foul down the stretch.

Overcoming a fast start by the team that swept them in the first round, last year's playoffs, the

Magic led by as many as 12 points in the fourth quarter. The Pacers got within five midway through the quarter, but a flagrant foul by Dale Davis on O'Neal produced four Magic points.

After scoring 20 points in the first half, Reggie Miller had just six in the second half. Indiana's Byron Scott, who had averaged 4.7 points in 10 previous playoff games, had 18 off the bench and McKey added 14.

Anfernee Hardaway had 20 points and 14 assists for the Magic, who will look to extend their lead Game 2 at home Thursday night. Dennis Scott also had 19 and Nick Anderson 16, all in the second half.

Indiana (20): D. Scott 7-14 0-0 19, Grant 5-12 5-6 15, O'Neal 11-18 10-12 32, Hardaway 8-14 1-2 22, Anderson 6-11 1-2 16, Rollins 0-0 1-2 1, Turner 0-0 2-2 0, Shaw 0-3 0-0 0, Bowie 0-1 0-0 0, Royal 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 97-71 20-28 105.

Orlando (105): D. Scott 7-14 0-0 19, Grant 5-12 5-6 15, O'Neal 11-18 10-12 32, Hardaway 8-14 1-2 22, Anderson 6-11 1-2 16, Rollins 0-0 1-2 1, Turner 0-0 2-2 0, Shaw 0-3 0-0 0, Bowie 0-1 0-0 0, Royal 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 97-71 20-28 105.

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AIRBORNE - Magic guard Anfernee Hardaway passes off in front of Pacers' Antonio Davis.

Detroit leads 2-0

DETROIT (AP) - Led by their stars, the Red Wings were nearly perfect in a 6-2 win over the San Jose Sharks on Tuesday night.

Detroit has a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals series, which shifts to San Jose for Games 3 and 4 tonight and Saturday.

The Red Wings, still smarting about being upset by the Sharks in the first round last season, came out firing as Paul Coffey, Sergei Fedorov, Steve Yzerman and Dino Ciccarelli - four of the best shooters in the game - all scored first-period goals.

Fedorov and Doug Brown scored in the second period for a 6-0 lead.

The last goal scored by the Sharks in Detroit was Jamie Baker's game-winner at 13:25 of the third period in Game 7 of the first round last season.

Detroit put tremendous pressure on Sharks goalie Arturs Irbe in the first two periods. Irbe was the architect of San Jose's seven-game upset in the 1994 series and the Red Wings looked like they couldn't wait to get at him.

The furious assault led to a bevy of octopuses being hurled

on the ice by the 19,875 fans. Four of the sea creatures sailed down from the stands just for the singing of the Star Spangled Banner.

The octopus has been a playoff staple in Detroit since the days when the National Hockey League was a six-team league and eight wins were enough to win the championship.

Blackhawks 2, Canucks 0
Jeremy Roenick came back from a knee injury to provide an emotional lift and Ed Belfour made 17 saves as host Chicago took a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

Jim Cummins scored his first career playoff goal and Patrick Poulin added the third-period clincher for the Blackhawks, who have won 14 of 16 series in team history after winning the first two games. Chicago is 6-0 against the Canucks this season.

Vancouver, which plays host to Games 3 and 4 tonight and Saturday, has lost all seven times in club history after dropping the first two games of a series.

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS
TUESDAY:
Detroit 6, San Jose 2
Chicago 2, Vancouver 0
Chicago leads series 2-0
LAST NIGHT:
Philadelphia at NY Rangers
Philadelphia leads series 2-0
Pittsburgh at New Jersey
Series tied 1-1

Fans gave Jets 2nd chance

WINNIPEG (AP) - Winnipeg Jets players praised their fans, whose loyalty and spirit is said to have prevented the team from leaving town.

Jets captain Keith Tkachuk and other players credited rallies, fund-raising drives and emotional outpourings by fans for persuading investors and government that NHL hockey belongs in Winnipeg.

"It's the fans who gave the Jets a second chance to stay here," Jets captain Keith Tkachuk said. "They've been so loyal."

Just last week, it appeared the Jets would leave Winnipeg: probably for Minnesota. But prospective buyers Richard Burke and Steven Gluckstein announced the deal had fallen through because Jets owner Barry Shenkarow may have to repay more than \$11.7 million to the citizens of Manitoba if the team moves.

Tyson to tangle with McNeeley in 1st fight

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Mike Tyson will fight 26-year-old American Peter McNeeley on August 19 in his first bout since being released from prison March 25.

The former heavyweight champion's much anticipated return to the ring at the MGM Grand hotel-casino will be his first fight in more than four years.

It comes against a Medfield, Massachusetts, heavyweight, whose 36-1 record is loaded with lightly regarded opponents. McNeeley, however, is ranked

No. 10 by the WBC, which ranks Tyson No. 1 despite his layoff. The WBA ranks McNeeley 9th.

Tyson's layoff has historical precedence. Muhammad Ali was in his prime when he did not fight for a little more than 3½ years while successfully challenging efforts in the courts to be drafted into the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Ali, who was 25 at the time, came back to fight 11 more years and capture the heavyweight title twice more.

US envoy makes his pitch

US Ambassador Martin Indyk is scheduled to throw out the first ball tonight to inaugurate the Israel Slow Pitch Softball Invitational at Kibbutz Gezer.

The tournament, which runs through Saturday, includes teams from the foreign press, the US Embassy, the US Sinai forces and the Israel Softball Association. The first game takes place at 9 pm.

Rain halts Windies march

NOTTINGHAM (AP) - Led by the bowling of Courtney Walsh and strong top-order batting, the West Indies appeared headed for victory yesterday when bad weather stopped play at the first one-day international.

Chasing England's modest 55 overs total of 199 runs for 9 wickets, the tourists stood at 76 for 1 after 19.5 overs when bad light stopped play for the day after three previous rain delays. The match, the first of three over five days, will resume today.

Walsh took three wickets for 28 runs with one maiden in 10 overs. His dismissal of Mark Ramprakash, out after being hit in the groin with a full toss, was Walsh's 158th wicket in one-day internationals, moving him ahead of Malcolm Marshall as the all-time West Indies leader.

Walsh's fellow paceman Ian Bishop also showed impressive form in his first international match in two years.

ENGLAND	
M.Atherton c Lara b Walsh	8
A.Stewart b Hooper	7
G.Hick c Murray b Benjamin	8
G.Thorpe c Murray b Walsh	7
N.Falder b b Bishop	12
M.Ramprakash b Walsh	32
P.Dewar b b Bishop	15
D.Cork b b Bishop	14
D.Gough run out	3
S.Dill not out	5
Extras (b-11 w-1)	4
Total (for 9 wickets)	199
Fall of wickets: 1-25 2-60 3-85 4-121 5-125 6-157 7-186 8-190 9-191	
Bowling: Ambrose 8-1-33-0, Walsh 10-1-28-3, Bishop 11-2-20-1, Benjamin 8-1-22-1, Hooper 10-0-45-1, Arthurton 8-0-50-1	
WEST INDIES	
C.Hooper b Cork	34
S.Campbell not out	34
B.Lara not out	34
Extras (b-11 w-1)	2
Total (for one wicket, 19.5 overs)	76
Fall of wicket: 1-68	
To bat: R.Falder (captain), J.Adams, C.Arthurton, J.Murray, C.Ambrose, G.Walsh, I.Bishop, W.Benjamin, P.Dewar, M.Ramprakash, P.Dewar, M.Ramprakash, P.Dewar, M.Ramprakash	
Bowling: DeFreitas 7-1-27-0, Fraser 4-0-14-0, Gough 6-0-19-0, Cork 3-0-15-1	

Yanks blanked on 2 hits

ANAHEIM (AP) - Chuck Finley threw a two-hitter and matched his career-high with 15 strikeouts as he notched his 100th career victory in shutting out the Yankees 10-0 on Tuesday night.

The first hit for the Yankees came in the sixth when Russ Davis led off by driving a fastball almost to the center field wall. Jim Edmonds raced back, leaped and had the ball in his glove, but banged into the fence and the ball popped out. He groped for the ball as he fell and juggled it, but the ball finally dropped to the ground just out of his reach.

The other hit came with two out in the ninth, a liner to center by Randy Velarde. Finley (1-4), whose career record is 100-90, walked two - Davis with two out in the eighth and Jim Leyritz with two out in the ninth.

Edmonds had two homers - a three-run shot in the fourth and a solo shot in the seventh - while Tony Phillips hit a three-run homer and Tim Salmon added a solo shot.

Finley 5, Brewers 3
Omar Vizquel homered for the second time in two games - matching his career high for a season - and Dennis Martinez remained unbeaten for host Cleveland.

Vizquel, who ended a string of 333 at-bats without a home run Monday night, hit a two-run homer that stretched Cleveland's lead to 5-1 in the fourth.

Blue Jays 10, Royals 6
Rookie Alex Gonzalez hit his first two major league homers and drove in four runs as host Toronto snapped a three-game losing streak.

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	18	6	.750	GB
Atlanta	15	10	.600	5
Montreal	14	14	.500	9
New York	10	15	.400	15
Florida	6	19	.240	22.5
Central Division				
Chicago	18	11	.621	GB
Cincinnati	13	12	.520	3
Houston	13	12	.520	3.5
St. Louis	11	15	.423	6
Pittsburgh	9	15	.375	7
West Division				
Colorado	15	11	.577	GB
San Francisco	13	13	.500	2
Los Angeles	11	14	.440	5.5
San Diego	11	14	.440	5.5

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Montreal 6, San Diego 4
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 5
Cincinnati 10, Houston 5
Florida 6, Pittsburgh 1
Los Angeles 6, New York 4
Atlanta 7, St. Louis 1
Chicago 7, Colorado 6

Orlando 8, Athletics 1

Kevin Brown pitched a four-hitter and struck out nine in his first complete-game victory since last July 5 when he was with Texas.

Cal Ripken broke an 0-for-14 slump with a two-run triple in the sixth and Rafael Palmeiro homered and drove in three runs for visiting Baltimore, while Kevin Bass had three hits and two RBIs.

Ripken, playing in his 2,032nd straight contest, is now 99 games short of breaking Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130, set from 1925-1939. If all goes as scheduled, Ripken will break the record September 6 at Baltimore.

Red Sox 5, Mariners 4 (10)
Ron Mahay walked with the bases loaded in the top of the 10th inning as Boston snapped a three-game losing streak.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Braves 7, Cardinals 1
Greg Maddux, rebounding from his worst performance of the season, began with five perfect innings and finished with a five-hitter for visiting Atlanta.

David Justice and Mike Kelly homered for the Braves, who won their fifth straight.

Expos 6, Padres 4

Mike Lansing hit first career grand slam and Jeff Fassero (5-1) became the NL's first five-game winner as host Montreal beat San Diego for the 14th straight time since July 1992.

Meanwhile Tuesday, center fielder Roberto Kelly, one of the key players obtained by Montreal from Atlanta last month, was dealt to the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Left-handed reliever and minor-league prospect Joey Eischen joins Kelly in the deal, in which the Expos acquired outfielder Henry Rodriguez and veteran infielder Jeff Treadway from Los Angeles.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
Boston	15	8	.652	GB
New York	12	10	.545	2.5
Detroit	12	13	.480	4
Toronto	11	14	.440	5
Baltimore	10	18	.357	8.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	18	7	.720	GB
Minnesota	12	13	.480	4
Chicago	11	14	.440	5
Chicago	8	14	.364	7.5
Minnesota	8	17	.320	9
West Division				
California	18	9	.680	GB
Oakland	15	12	.558	3
Texas	13	12	.520	3
Seattle	12	12	.500	3.5

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Texas at Chicago, ppd., rain
Philadelphia 5, Milwaukee 3
Detroit 6, Minnesota 4 (6½, rain)
Toronto 10, Kansas City 6
Boston 5, Seattle 4 (10)
Baltimore 8, Oakland 1
California 10, New York 8

First covered tennis courts inaugurated in Kiryat Shmona

HEATHER CHAIT

THE country's first indoor tennis courts were inaugurated yesterday in Kiryat Shmona.

The three-court project, costing some \$500,000, was funded by the Marjorie and Archie Sherman Fund as a gift to the children of Israel's northern-most town.

The incentive behind building the covered courts was to provide an all-weather surface in this town, notorious for its gusty winds in summer and incessant rain and low-lying mist in winter. The unveiling yesterday took place in sweltering temperatures of 35°C.

The courts extend over 54.9 meters, 35m wide and 10m high. The project includes lighting and ventilation which has still to be installed. Marjorie Sherman's son-in-law, Allan Morgenthal, referred to the family's "intoxicating friendship with the ITC" and expressed his wish that "the only shots we see in Kiryat Shmona will be those on these courts."

Kiryat Shmona mayor Prosper Azran, thanked the Sherman family warmly while touching on the bleak economic situation of his town.

After the speeches, retired Israeli No. 1 Amos Mansdorf, began play under cover by hitting a few balls to one of the town's upcoming stars, 10-year-old Dudi Sela, the brother of Davis Cup player, Ofer Sela.

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Soldier who shot up church sent for psychiatric evaluation

Suspect says he was destroying 'idols'

THE soldier who opened fire in St. Anthony's Church in Jaffa on Monday was remanded for 13 days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday and sent for psychiatric observation.

Haniel Koren, 21, told police that he did not mean to harm people, but only intended to damage "non-Jewish idols." He also admitted setting fire to the organ and the door of Jerusalem's Gan Shmanim Church on May 18.

Judge Dan Arbel said that psychiatric reports were essential to assess Koren's motive.

The investigation will not be transferred to the Military Police, even though Koren is on compulsory military service, Attorney-General Michael Ben Yair ruled yesterday.

Ben-Yair explained that though Koren is a soldier, the crime was purely civilian, and was not committed in a military framework. Therefore, there is no reason for him to be tried in a military court.

If the police discover that he was assisted by other soldiers, the Military Police will become involved, he said.

RAINE MARCUS
and EVELYN GORDON

Koren said it was a shame that he had to explain in court his motive for the shooting, which, he said, was self explanatory and written in the Torah. His motive, he said, was to destroy all idols, and anything which represented "foreign labor" and did not relate to Judaism.

He also said he was completely sane and totally responsible for his actions.

But his lawyer Avi Weig said that he was obviously mentally disturbed and needed psychiatric help.

Koren's mother told Israel Radio yesterday that her son's deed contradicted the education he had received at home and was against all the family's principles.

She also said he had asked to be released from the IDF but had been refused. However, she added, her son had shown no indications that he was about to commit such a deed, and agreed that he needed psychiatric help.

She also apologized to members of the Christian community for her son's actions.

Liat Collins adds:

The Knesset yesterday denounced the Jaffa church shooting. Responding to several motions to the agenda, Police Minister Moshe Shalom said the government would compensate St. Anthony's Church for the damage and necessary repair work.

Responding to complaints by Shas MK Yosef Azran and Likud MK Ovadia Eli that the police had not carried out arrests following the riots at the site, Shalom said the police had filmed the riots on video and would detain the attackers.

Politicians from all parties called for religious tolerance and freedom of worship.

Haim Shapiro adds:

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret yesterday called a meeting of the leaders of the Christian churches to discuss the attack on the Jaffa church and ways to avoid a repetition of such an outrage in the future. During the meeting, the Christian leaders protested against the broadcast of the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ* on cable television.



A worker trapped when a 13-story scaffold collapsed yesterday at a building site in Ramat Aviv is evacuated by rescuers. Two other workers escaped with light injuries. (Yitzhak Elharar/Scoop 80)

Aloni: Relations between Israel and Diaspora need reexamining

LIAT COLLINS

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday made a plea in the Knesset plenum for more civilized discourse.

She was speaking after a long series of speeches by MKs of all political persuasions denouncing the physical attack on her at a solidarity rally in New York earlier this week.

Aloni refrained from attacking the right in her speech, which was more subdued than usual. She said the new age of peace

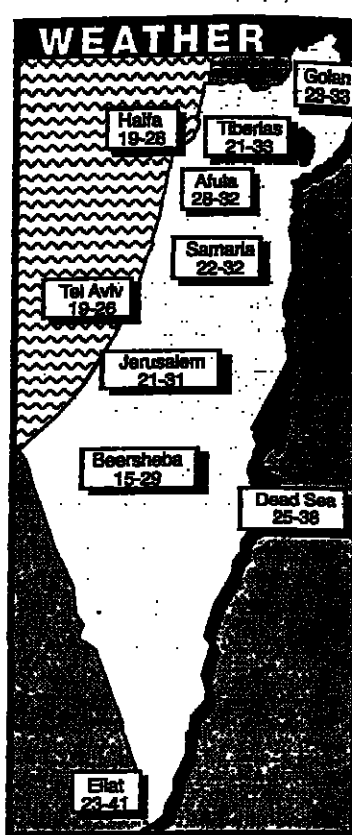
requires a reexamination of the relations between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. She called for relations based on unity and equality, and said she regretted that part of US Jewry fears it will lose its identity if it no longer needs to protect Israel, rather than building new relations based on peace and Jewish values.

Avi Yehzekel (Labor) said that the message to US Jewry from

politicians of all parties should be: "Your place is here."

Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) caused a storm by accusing right-wing politicians of inciting violence.

Naomi Chazan (Meretz) also had harsh words for the right: "All acts of violence... from the murder of [Peace Now activist] Emil Grunzweig to the attack on Aloni were made by the right. Show me one right-wing MK physically attacked by a leftist."



Forecast: Slight drop in temperatures. Rise in humidity.

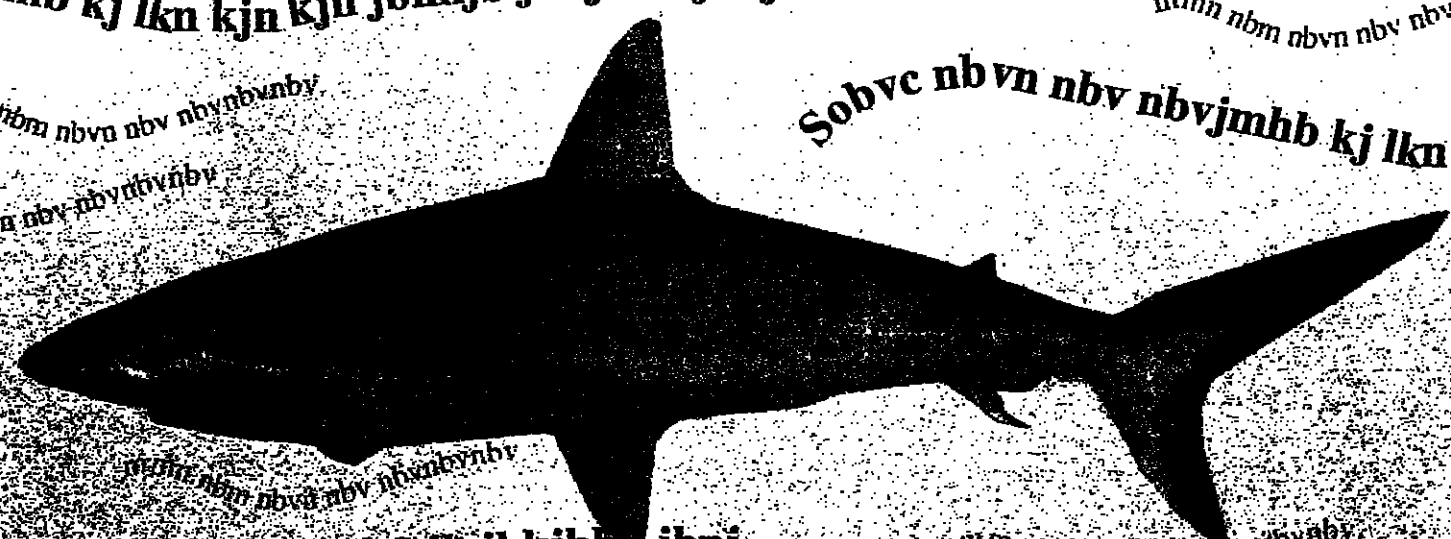
AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F		C	F
Amsterdam	10	50	Paris	12	54
Berlin	10	50	Rome	13	55
Buenos Aires	15	59	Stockholm	10	50
Cairo	20	68	Sydney	15	59
Chicago	10	50	Tel Aviv	16	61
Copenhagen	10	50	Tiberias	21	70
Dallas	10	50	Yotvata	25	77
Helsinki	10	50			
Hong Kong	25	77			
Jakarta	25	77			
London	12	54			
Los Angeles	14	57			
Madrid	15	59			
Moscow	10	50			
New York	17	63			
Paris	12	54			
Rome	13	55			
Stockholm	10	50			
Sydney	15	59			
Tel Aviv	16	61			
Tiberias	21	70			
Yotvata	25	77			

Don't you read the paper?

You are all geared up for a day trip to the Sea of Galilee. As you approach Tiberias, you notice an unusual number of cars coming in the opposite direction. Funny, you think, where can they all be going? At a red light, you lean out of the window and ask what's going on. "Don't you read the paper? There's a rumor that a poisonous fish, dormant for 2000 years on the sea-bed, is menacing bathers".

So you see, if you read the Jerusalem Post every day instead of just at the weekend, you would know about this momentous non-event! Not to mention the news in depth, analysis and opinion, and a choice of feature articles, pastimes, advice columns and entertainment every day. If you want to enjoy every day, once a week is not enough.



Beilin speaks against direct election of PM

SARAH HONIG

DEPUTY Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin yesterday launched an unprecedented attack on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin regarding his pet issue - the direct election of the prime minister.

At a press conference he called, Beilin announced he will continue his battle to repeal the direct election legislation, even though his political patron, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, has agreed to postpone his own fight against the law.

Beilin said, however, he would limit his campaign to the Labor steering committee and would abide by its ruling. Thus chances are slim that Beilin's crusade against the law will ever get to the Labor convention floor on June 5.

Beilin charged that Rabin was disingenuous, when, in his defense of the direct election bill, he argued that to do an about-face now would be to go back the party's commitment to the law made to the voters in

1992.

Beilin noted that "during the last election campaign we did not simply promise that there would be a separate ballot for prime minister and that the prime minister elected under the new system would get inordinate powers. We promised reform in the Knesset electoral system as well."

The two reforms, Beilin said, "are not side-by-side issues, but are inextricably linked together and one is conditional upon the other. We cannot have half an electoral reform and merely change the way we elect the prime minister. Otherwise, we will end up with a powerful premier and a helpless Knesset. The prime minister will be immune from parliamentary control and there will be no system of checks and balances."

If Rabin has his way, Beilin asserted, "this will spell the end to our democracy. The parliamentary system in this country will come to an ignominious end."

Study: Jewish men more depressed than non-Jews

MIAMI BEACH (AP) - American Jewish men show sharply higher rates of depression than non-Jewish men, perhaps because they are less likely to drown their sorrows in alcohol, researchers said this week.

An analysis of surveys in Los Angeles and New Haven, Connecticut, found that within a one-year period, 13 percent of Jewish men had major depression, compared with 5.4 percent for non-Jewish men.

Jewish women did not show unusually high rates.

Researchers can only speculate about what causes the high rate in Jewish men, but it may have to do with their low rate of alcoholism, said study authors Drs. Robert Kohn and Itzak Levav of Brown University.

Jewish men had a 2.8 percent rate of alcoholism vs. about 14 percent for non-Jewish men, Kohn said. That's because alcohol use is highly limited in Jewish tradition, giving less opportunity for alcoholism, Levav said.

So in cultures that do not use drinking as an outlet for release of tension, sadness, and distress, those things may show up as depression, Levav said.

Another possibility is that alcoholism simply covers up the identifiable symptoms of depression in basically depressed people, he said.

Kohn noted that when re-

searchers added up the rates of alcoholism and major depression, Jewish men showed about the same combined rate as non-Jewish men.

Kohn reported on the research at the annual meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

The work drew on results from a landmark study of America's mental health that was done in the 1980s. The new work analyzed data from 4,583 white adults in Los Angeles and New Haven, including 431 Jewish participants.

Kohn noted that the New Haven Jewish participants were more traditional than those from Los Angeles, as measured by higher membership in more traditional branches of Judaism and in synagogues.

Consistent with the paper's hypothesis, the New Haven Jewish participants had higher depression rates and lower alcoholism rates than those from Los Angeles, he said.

Overall results for Jewish participants found that men and women showed about the same rates of major depression, in contrast to the usual pattern of women having twice the male rate.

Prior research into the Amish, who are nondrinkers, also show an unusual equality of men's and women's depression rates at relatively high levels, Kohn said.

Ministry investigating chemical leak

The Environment Ministry is investigating a chemical accident near Hof Shemen in the Haifa Bay area industrial zone yesterday morning, in which nearly five tons of liquid phosphoric acid leaked from a container on board a train traveling to the Haifa Fertilizers and Chemicals factory.

Nobody was hurt. The concentrated substance was neutralized by experts under the supervision of ministry officials.

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RAINE MARCUS

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